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2 March 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO REPORTEDLY ON ARMS-BUYING TOUR IN EUROPE

TA181043 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Feb 82 p 1

[Report from Washington by Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] A PLO military delegation is now on an arms purchasing tour in Hungary and the GDR. This was reported to the DAVAR correspondent last night by knowledgeable sources, who said that the delegation is discussing the purchase of T-54 and T-55 tanks for the terrorists and instruction and training programs for tank crews, to be held in these Warsaw Pact countries.

According to the sources, there are unsubstantiated reports that the delegation will also try to purchase frog surface-to-surface missiles.

This procurement delegation is a part of the increasing PLO attempt to obtain large equipment and weapons, gradually changing it from a terrorist unit to a genuine army. For example, they now have a "navy" different from the rubber dinghies that have characterized it to date. According to the sources, the terrorists have received two patrol boats--each one 37 meters in length--as a gift from Libyan ruler Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and the boats are now anchored in Latakia Port in Northern Syria.

Yesterday the WASHINGTON POST, in an article about the situation in Southern Lebanon, reported that in Israel's estimation the terrorists have, since last summer, received 1,000 tons of military equipment directly from the Soviet Union, 200 tons from Saudi Arabia and 100 tons from Libya--a shipment that also included surface-to-air missiles. In Israel's estimation, as the paper reports, the number of surface-to-surface missiles in the terrorists' possession has doubled, the number of tanks at their disposal has risen from 34 to 70 and their quality has been improved following the introduction into service of more advanced, modern models.

CSO: 4423/89

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

OMAN-MOROCCO TRADE AGREEMENT--A trade agreement was signed in Rabat today between Oman and Morocco. The agreement was signed on Oman's behalf by Omani Industry and Commerce Minister Muhammad al-Zubayr and on Morocco's behalf by Moroccan Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Ezzdeddin Gasus. [GF100610 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Feb 82]

AID FOR DJIBOUTI--The Islamic Development Bank signed an agreement with the Republic of Djibouti today to provide technical aid and study the designs for the expansion of Djibouti Airport. According to the agreement, \$150,000 will be provided for this project. [GF170133 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 82]

LOAN TO BANGLADESH--An agreement was signed in Jidda today between the Islamic Development Bank and Bangladesh to finance raw cotton exports from Pakistan to Bangladesh at a cost of \$5.14 million. The agreement was signed by Dr Sa'id Ahmad Minya'i, the bank's acting governor, and the Bangladesh charge d'affaires in Saudi Arabia. [GF170133 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Feb 82]

CSO: 4404/265

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GCC DENIES POLICY CHANGES--Abu Dhabi, 6 Feb (QNA)--Ibrahim al-Subhi, the assistant secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] for political affairs, denied a change in the policy of the GCC states on the Iraqi-Iranian war that is aimed at exerting efforts to stop this war and support all mediation in this direction. In a statement made to Abu Dhabi al-Ittihad, al-Subhi referred to border differences between some of the Gulf states and asserted that the Gulf states have passed the stage of differences and are searching for positive issues. [Excerpt] [GF061730 Doha QNA in Arabic 1257 GMT 6 Feb 82]

GCC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL TO MEET--Riyadh, 16 Feb (QNA)--GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah announced that the Ministerial Council, which includes the GCC foreign affairs ministers, will hold its next regular session in Riyadh on 7 March. In a statement to a QNA correspondent, 'Abdallah Bisharah said that the agenda of the Ministerial Council will cover all the resolutions and recommendations that were issued by the specialized ministerial councils, which began holding meetings last November, particularly the recommendations of the ministers of finance, defense, economy and petroleum. [Excerpt] [GF161932 Doha QNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Feb 82]

CSO: 4404/265

WEEKLY ON U.S. BOOKLET ON AFGHANISTAN

GF131306 Manama SADA AL-USBU' in Arabic 9 Feb 82 p 10

[Article by 'Ali Sayyar: "The United States...Devil and Angel"]

[Text] A few days ago the U.S. Embassy distributed an elegant booklet about Afghanistan which included many photographs about the struggle the Afghan people are waging against the invading Soviet forces. It also included a lot of information about the fierce war which a defenseless nation, armed only with faith, is waging against horrible communist forces. The booklet is also full of photographs of Soviet planes which the revolutionaries shot down, of suffering Afghan Mujahidin and destruction on Afghan farms.

More is said by the elegant booklet the U.S. Embassy has been distributing under the title "Afghanistan...Struggle for Freedom."

The truth is that this book is a reliable and an accurate reference about the war going on in Afghanistan between the Mujahidin and the invading Soviet forces. In this regard it is considered a successful and informative means to inform the Arab citizen of the truth about events there. The U.S. Embassy deserves our thanks for the great effort it has made to unveil and expose the flagrant Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

After having thoroughly read the book and seeing all of the photographs in it, we wish we could believe the United States and rejoice for this bright informative covering of the brave war waged by the defenseless Muslim people to achieve freedom and independence. We would believe the United States if this had been part of an overall plan to expose and unveil all the forces that trample on the freedom of others in trying to preserve their existence, even if this existence is cruel and unjust and violates international conventions, heavenly laws and human conscience and did not concentrate on only one spot where cruelty, enslavement and humiliation prevail.

We know what is going on in Afghanistan. We have denounced and rejected it, and we still reject and condemn it through our dealings with the communist regime which is tightening its grip on Kabul and in international forums where history records events and where everybody listens.

We know the United States is at one with us when the matter concerns Afghanistan. We also know this is not because it loves the Arabs but because we reject communism as much as it does.

That fact is known to the United States and to us. But there is one thing we do not understand: How does the disgraceful Soviet image in Afghanistan become beautiful when the face is not Soviet or communist?

Why is it so when the devil is a Jew or a Zionist? Why is it so when a people have been struggling for more than 30 years to regain their land and houses? Why, then, when the matter concerns Palestine and the Palestinians, does the image change into an image of a terrorist who is pursued by U.S. intelligence agencies and cursed by Nixon, Carter, Ford and Reagan?

Yes, we want to believe the United States when it defends the Mujahidin in Afghanistan. We want to believe it when it says the Muslims in Afghanistan are being liquidated. We want to believe it when it says the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is cruel international blackmail which the world must sternly and firmly resist.

We want to believe it. However, what prevents us from believing the United States is that it is half angel and half devil.

The United States is an angel when the Soviets invade, kill and devastate, but it is a devil or worse than a devil when Zionism imprisons a whole nation and when it shamelessly devours the land of others by using force against the people who reject it. It is a devil when it supports the despot and assists him financially and militarily. That devil is the United States.

Which are we to believe--the United States the angel, which supports Muslim revolutionaries in Afghanistan, or the United States the devil, which places weapons in Israel's hands and asks it to strike the defenseless Arab people in Palestine, to fly over Arab skies, bomb an Arab reactor, slaughter the Lebanese people and the Palestinians in Southern Lebanon to occupy land that does not belong to it?

Yes...before defending our fraternal Muslim nation in Afghanistan, the United States must choose: devil or angel?

CSO: 4404/266

PAPER ON U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

GF121500 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] We were worried when we read yesterday a statement by a senior U.S. official who said that the United States will adopt a firmer policy toward Israel because, according to him, the United States has strategic interests that exceed its interest in U.S.-Israeli relations.

We felt worried because U.S. policy toward Israel is currently "firm" enough. It is so firm that any increase in firmness, no matter how slight, may expose the whole Zionist entity to danger.

Cases of U.S. firmness toward Israel have been numerous recently and clear to everybody. When the Israelis raided the Iraqi nuclear reactor using U.S. F-15 planes, the United States denounced this aggression. Then, in order to drive Israel into a critical situation, the United States objected to the imposition of sanctions against it and used the veto to prevent approval of a resolution calling for sanctions.

When Israeli planes bombed a residential area in the heart of Beirut sheltering women, old men and children, the United States decided to postpone the delivery of F-16 planes to Israel for a few months.

When Israel officially announced the annexation of the occupied Golan Heights, the United States objected. Then, in order to make Israel feel ashamed of itself, the United States strongly refused--in the UN Security Council and the General Assembly--to adopt any resolution imposing sanctions on Israel. The U.S. representative at the United Nations, Jean Kirkpatrick, launched a strong campaign against the Third World countries because they criticized the U.S. support for Israel. Kirkpatrick also threatened to adopt an "aggressive position" toward those countries.

This is just a sample of the firm stands of the United States toward Israel. Since this firmness is so cruel, we call on the United States, not only to abstain from adopting further firmness, but to totally abandon any "firm" positions toward Israel for the sake of the Arabs.

OSO: 4404/266

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

IRAN EMPLOYING MERCENARIES--London, 10 Feb (WAKH)--The London-based newspaper AL-'ARAB reports today that the Iranian regime has contacted mercenary engineers and pilots from five European countries about working in Iran. The newspaper says that the Iranian regime has dispatched three Iranian officers to the FRG, Italy, Greece, France and Belgium to contact businessmen and mercenaries who have had previous contacts with Iran. The paper adds that in the last 7 months of 1981, the three officers were able to conclude more than 700 contracts in the five European countries. Quoting reports said to have been confirmed by European circles specializing in the Middle East, the newspaper indicates that the Iranian regime has concluded a contract with the Israeli enemy through three Iranian merchants to supply Iran with various consignments of American wheat, medicine and foodstuffs. The newspaper also lists the commodities that were shipped from Israel to Iran last year. The list includes 900 tons of frozen chicken, 700 tons of meat, 7,000 tons of oranges, (?2,000) tons of vegetables, 200,000 cartons of eggs, 5 million cans, [as received] 1,200 liters of plasma and 135,000 tons of wheat. [Excerpts] [GF101945 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1842 GMT 10 Feb 82]

OIL COUNCIL REVIEWS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION--Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah chaired the Supreme Oil Council's ordinary meeting at Government House this morning. After the meeting, Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, development and industry minister and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that the council reviewed a report on international oil marketing and noted with concern the deteriorating prices of oil products throughout the world. He said that the council has demanded a more realistic evaluation of the situation than the one that was made while the budget was being prepared a few months ago. He added that the council also studied the budgets of the Bahrain National Oil Company, the Bahrain Petroleum Company, the marketing (?unit) and the Bahrain Gas Company. The council has decided to meet again next week to discuss this issue further. [Text] [GF171237 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Feb 82]

NEWS AGREEMENT WITH ROK--An agreement was signed here today between the Gulf News Agency [WAKH] and the ROK News Agency YONHAP. The agreement was signed by Nabil Ya'qub al-Hamar, WAKH director general, and (Kim Seong Jin), YONHAP director general. Under this agreement, the two agencies will exchange news reports and disseminate them in the ROK and the Arab Gulf region. [GF091239 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Feb 82]

CSO: 4404/266

KHOMAYNI SUGGESTED TO LEAD 'UNIVERSAL MUSLIM UPRISING'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] On the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, we have a message for all Moslems of the world. A message which is rooted in the depth of the pious Moslem nature and divinely inspired character, a message which once again underlines the code of victory and lays stress on the grave necessity for establishment of a State of Allah.

The WASHINGTON POST, 'quoting a key US official, writes: "The big powers should regard the Islamic Revolution in Iran as a death knell to the domination of the big powers.

"The revolution is in a state of rapid expansion and the Moslems in other and far off places are marching ahead to unite the population of one billion Moslems throughout the world under a single umbrella. The big powers should lead a more intensified fight against the Islamic Revolution and should not let this powerful wave envelop all Moslems who will inevitably challenge the interests of the big powers. If the Moslems form a united front, the dynasty of the big powers will be severely jeopardized."

The friends, supporters and true lovers of Islam should maneuver to achieve their divine goals by comprehending and advancing into those very spheres which have caused sharp fears in the hearts of the enemies of Islam.

The immeasurable fear and ever-multiplying anxiety of the devilish big powers towards the Holy Qoran directly results from the fact that this Glorious Book also places prime importance for Moslems towards brotherhood, invites them towards "unity" and forbids dispersions and divisions among brothers.

In the Holy Qoran, Allah declares that all Moslems, wherever they are, are brothers and brothers should not fight with each other. If the Moslems follow the Qoran, an awe-inspiring power will emerge through "unity" between all Moslems. Such unity will undoubtedly endanger the existence of the big powers and overwhelm the Eastern and Western powers.

The fear and anxiety of the Superpowers in respect to the "unity between Moslems" have their roots in the following:

1. The population of Moslems throughout the world is over one billion. When this force declares the orders and teachings of Qoran as their line of action and unites to follow that path, the Moslems will be "the world's biggest competitive human power," establishing themselves as a number one power on earth in this field.

2. Presently, the most powerful weapon and greatest achievement of human beings, to confront anti-Allah powers, is possessed by Moslems; a spirit of self-confidence the Moslems have developed as a result of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution.

Until recently, i.e., before the success of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, it was very difficult for Moslems of the world to believe that it was, indeed, possible to fight with and defeat the Superpowers.

The revolution put an end to the fairy-tale invincibility of the satanic powers.

Soaring to unprecedented heights and lifted up by this great revolutionary experience, the Moslems have in fact found the most valuable treasures to rely upon: The treasure of self-confidence coupled with an unshakeable faith that no power can stand up to resist and survive against the strength of the faith of United Moslems.

A divine miracle reflected under the most enlivening sentence of this century is the historical declaration of the greatest revolutionary personality of the world, Imam Khomeyni, who has proudly announced that: "America cannot do any damn thing."

It is crystal clear for everyone that his phrase is never intended to mean that only the U.S. can do nothing. It rather means that America, the biggest satanic power in the world, cannot do any damn thing against the unity of Moslems, let alone the other powers like the Soviet Union etc.

It is an undeniable reality that the devilish powers of the East and West are afraid of the "self-confidence" in Moslem ranks more than the "great numbers of Moslems" or the "vast resources of Moslems."

By the Grace of God, this self-confidence is eminent in Moslems aspired by the victory, presence and rise of the unique Islamic Revolution in Iran which will, God willing, ultimately lead to an overall unity between Moslems gathered under the single Islamic flag.

3. The Moslems of the world process and control the biggest and richest products, minerals and natural reserves.

One among many of those resources is oil which is like blood circulating in the veins of the Superpowers, which will be condemned to an inevitable death if the bloodflow is stopped for a moment.

That all-important "unity" is the only factor which will enable Moslems to effectively utilise these resources, which God has showered upon them as gifts, as the most lethal "weapon" to halt colonialism and imperialism dead in its track.

4. Today, about 40 countries in the world are controlled by Moslems. The Moslems are a majority in these countries and can if they wish demand and establish Islamic Republic's in those countries.

Even if we overlook the other ten countries where Moslems comprise the largest dominant minorities we cannot overlook the fact that the other countries consisting of a majority of Moslems can emerge as Islamic Republics too with devastating power on earth in different areas.

To hint at only one aspect of such a power, these united Islamic countries enjoying a rule of Islamic Republic will form the biggest political force in the world to reckon with.

If unity prevailed within such Islamic Republics, they can easily take up the reign of a concentrated political power establish the Divine Islamic and Qoranic laws, and determine fate of the world.

5. In any case of unity between Moslems, their vast manpower, capability, and talent can be employed in the scientific, cultural, industrial, agricultural military and economic and a number of other fields.

This will realize another Moslem dream to make full use of their resources to harness the talents and to liberate all Islamic countries of their dependence on the foreign powers to administer the needs of Moslems.

Such solidarity and coordination between the Islamic countries will also naturally lead to the downfall of the big industrial-military empires of the East or the West whose lives are dependent upon "plundering" the Moslem wealth under the deception of "assisting" the Moslems.

In the light of these facts, is it not now clear why the enemies of Islam fear unity among Moslems and conspire against it? Isn't it high time that the Moslems take up a genuine and practical decision to establish "universal" unity under a coordinated framework of thought and action?

Isn't it the best solution available, to arrive at a joint Moslem platform to operate from, to join the sacrificial and revolutionary Moslems in Iran and to befriend and assist this sacred Islamic movement which has been founded, and is still being built, upon the blood of tens of thousands of martyrs?

To lead this universal Moslem uprising, is there any other leader in the World of Islam who is as resolute, and as determined as Imam Khomeyni?

A leader who has proved in the most superb manner his capability and sincerity in the path of Islam during a long struggling period of tens of years.

A leader who has frustrated all international powers who established an Islamic rule amid the most critical conditions, who kept steadfast and did not fear one bit despite threats, sanctions, bombings, invasions, and baseless accusations.

Can one find a leader of his calibre whose shout for world-wide establishment of Islam is reaching the sky?

At least the blood of tens of thousands of Moslem martyrs should make you, O' Moslems of the world, ponder for a moment over the issues raised herein and to join the lovers of truth and justice in this haunting age.

Let us clasp our hands together to reach a universal unity among ourselves to fight against the falsehood and oppression imposed upon Moslems and let us uproot the whole race of devilish powers on the earth.

An this is our message on the verge of the 22 Bahman 3rd Anniversary of the success of the Islamic Revolution: The dawn of unity of Moslems of the world.

With the Will of God....Musavian.

CSO: 4600/257

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES ASSURED OF 'PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)--Religious minorities could be convinced to live in full welfare and security in the Islamic Republic of Iran and act according to the principles of their religion, according to the Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani in a message issued on Sunday.

The message was addressed to a ceremony held by Iranian religious minorities at Tehran Vahdat Hall in the presence of the Islamic Guidance Minister Hojjatoleslam Ma'adikhah.

This, the message stressed, was not something innovated by the officials of the Islamic Republic to attract the support of religious minorities but rather was a way which Islam and Qoran necessitated to be taken.

The message expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic, by fulfilling Islamic and Qoranic instructions and by creating a just atmosphere, could present a sample of peaceful coexistence to the present world of oppression and discrimination.

Addressing the audience Hojjatoleslam Ma'adikhah said that the existing differences among various nations and religions, caused by the oppressors, were irrational.

He emphasized that they could all gather around an axis and by relying on God Almighty stand against those who wished to become idols.

Ma'adikhah said that if all the religions become united all abuses under the pretext of religion would be eliminated and thus no room for differences would remain or at least they could all share the slogan "Down with the U.S."

The Armenian Archbishop Manukian said that Iranian religious minorities were enjoying religious and cultural freedom and announced their readiness for the revolutionary renovation of Iran.

The leader of Zoroastrians Mabad Shahrzad, hoped that all Iranians would cooperate in the continuation of the Islamic Revolution.

Rabbi Davoudi, congratulating the audience on the Third Anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, said that they shared the celebrations since the leader of the Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, Iranians and Islam had preserved their legitimate rights. He stressed that they would be the enemy of the enemies of Iran and friends of its friends.

CSO: 4600/259

TEHRAN CLAIMS TO HAVE DESTROYED MOJAHEDIN 'LEADERSHIP CADRE'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] Tehran (IRNA)--At 06:30 on Monday morning Revolutionary Guards started their "Ten Days Dawn" operation in a raid on one of the Munafiqeen's (MKO) hideouts in Za'afaraniyeh, near the toppled shah's Sa'adabad palace in northern Tehran, according to a source in the Central Committee.

Musa Khiyabani, the No 2 man of the MKO organization and other members of the Central Committee including Khiyabani's wife, and the fugitive MKO leader Masud Rajavi's wife, Ashraf Rabi'i, were killed while attempting to escape in a bullet-proof Peugeot car.

Following this successful operation a number of other hideouts of Munafiqeen were discovered in Tehran by the Revolutionary Guards.

Those killed during the said operation had engineered assassinations against the lives of martyr Ayatollah Beheshti on June 28, martyrs Mohammadali Rajai and Javad Bahonar on August 30, martyr Hojjatoleslam Qoddusi on September 5, martyr Ayatollah Madani on September 11, and martyr Ayatollah Dastgheib on December 11 and also the martyrdom of thousands of revolutionary guardsmen.

According to other reports the house belonged to a Majlis deputy of the former regime and was rented by the MKO at high price and was located in an expensive area of Tehran.

The operation, which was named the Ten Day Dawn (the period from the return of Imam Khomeyni to Iran and the victory of the Islamic Revolution) started early on Monday morning although the house had been under surveillance since midnight Sunday.

When the operation started Musa Khiyabani and his wife while trying to escape in their bullet-proof car, were killed as a result of a grenade explosion.

Reports further added that after two hours of clashes the remaining members of the MKO were killed.

In this operations three children which were being used as a cover were rescued including an infant and two five-year-old girls.

A large amount of arms including an RPG 7, a radio transmitter, a receiver which could detect all receivers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards and security forces and heavy duty rope were found in the house. Besides the ammunition a large amount of foodstuff was discovered in the hideout.

Another report said that 18 munafiqueen were killed during clashes.

Paris--Massud Rajavi, leader of the Munafiqueen organization (MKO) whose wife was among more than 10 of its top leaders killed in a shootout in Tehran Monday, said that their death was "a very hard blow" to the underground opposition group; reported by AFP.

CSO: 4600/259

ISLAMIC REGIME REGARDED AS 'GREATEST SUPPORTER OF PALESTINE'

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Tehran, (IRNA)--Dr Monir Shafiq, a theoretician of Palestine and Shaikh Maher Hamud, Friday prayers leader of Saida, southern Lebanon, currently visiting Iran, met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri and made a pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Hazrat-e-Ma'suma (AS) in Qom on Sunday.

After their private meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri speaking to IRNA, they outlined their views about the effect of the Islamic Revolution of Iran on the Palestinian people particularly the Palestinian youth. They said that by the overthrow of shah, who greatly supported the usurper regime of the Zionists, Iran had become the greatest supporter of Palestine.

Shaikh Hamud said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has had such an effect on the world's intellectual Moslems that none of the adverse propaganda was able to damage this. He concluded by saying that the revolutionary Moslems always kept their unity and hoped that the Moslems of the world, by understanding the meaning of unity would save the oppressed people.

Foreign guests on Sunday inspected the crimes in Dezful committed by Saddam against the Moslem people of that city.

The guests who are currently in Iran to participate in the Ten Day Dawn Celebrations were also given reports of the war operations. In that gathering attended by Ayatollah Ghazi, the Friday prayers leader of Dezful, one of the Lebanese guests on behalf of the foreign mission talked to the audience. While appreciating the invitation made by the government, he stressed that the Iranian nation taught the world oppressed how to liberate themselves. He added that they had come to Iran to learn the lesson of self-sacrifice.

Comparing the Islamic Iran to the post-revolutionary Iran, the Lebanese representative said that prior to the Revolution, Iran derived all its required goods from abroad, but upon the Revolution, it cut all dependence, so, the imperialists attacked Iran with the cooperation of its internal and external lackeys.

The guests then visited the Dezful cemetery and paid homage to the martyrs of the imposed war, and were greatly impressed.

A great number of Army and disciplinary forces personnel along with militant Moslem people of Tehran yesterday took part in a march and unity prayers along with foreign guests to mark the 8th day of the Ten Day Dawn Celebrations.

The marchers, carrying portraits of Imam Khomeyni and President Khamenei, Iranian flags and placards, marched from Ferdowsi Square towards Tehran University where they joined other participants in the congregational prayers.

A number of political and religious personalities, foreign guests here to attend the Third Anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and those crippled during the Revolution also took part in the prayers.

The gathering of representatives of the liberation movements of the world ended its work in Ahvaz on Sunday on issuing resolution.

On the last day of the gathering, which began Feb. 1st, representatives from the liberation movements of Afghanistan, Moro, the Arabian Peninsula, Oman, Patani, Iraq and Bahrain were present. A Bahraini representative, Kalamallah Majid, delivered a speech on the conspiracies of the superpowers aimed at annihilating Islam and for supporting the liberation and independence of the nations.

In the resolution the gathering condemning the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, called for a decisive stand by the Islamic Republic and all other liberation movements against this council whose goals is to bring the superpowers into the region.

The resolution also supported the formation of an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Islamic front and the representatives of the liberation movements announced their readiness for forming a united ummah under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. It also denounced the military occupation of Afghanistan, the annexation of the Golan Heights by the usurper regime of Qods and the attack of Iraq upon Iran.

Hundreds of Tehranis gathered in front of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) on the seventh day of the Ten Day Dawn ceremonies in Tehran on Sunday.

Among them were people made invalid or limbless during the Islamic Revolution in Iran or elsewhere in the battlefronts and also families of martyrs, Majlis representatives and religious and political figures thronged in front of the Majlis the group recited in unison the Qoranic sura of Fajr (Dawn), followed by a revolutionary song performed by a group of high school students and members of the Islamic Republic Party.

Palestinian guests met Sunday with Islamic Guidance Minister Hojjatoleslam Ma'adikhah to discuss regional issues. The guests, who were invited to Iran to attend the ceremonial expressed their willingness to expand relations with the Islamic Revolution. Also, Hojjatoleslam Ma'adikhah said that Iran expected that those who sympathised with the Islamic Revolution to act on issues according to a better understanding the realities. He added that a more firm commitment should be shown towards the positions of the Islamic Revolution which seeks the good of the deprived peoples of the world.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION SHOWS SUPPORT FOR WAR

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 17 Jan 82 p 4

[Text]

The General Federation of Iraqi Women (GFIW) has undertaken to spare no effort to implement the decisions of the political leadership and live up to the directives of President Saddam Hussein, without any hesitation and with utmost devotion.

In a statement released on Friday at the conclusion of the federation's 10th annual conference, the GFIW confirmed that final victory against the racist Persian enemy was a foregone conclusion in view of the results of the last 17 months of the heroic war being fought by the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces under the leadership of President Saddam Hussein.

The statement reviewed the role of Iraqi women in combatting under development and meeting the aspirations of the masses for social and economic upliftment.

"The women masses have contributed effectively to providing the prerequisites of the sacred battle against the racist Persian enemy, thus confirming their resolute determination to

set an impressive example of sacrifice and devotion", the statement added.

"In the course of leading the dual battle of confronting the aggression and stepping up social and economic reconstruction, the people of Iraq has proved to be the embodiment of the aspirations of the Arab nation and the example of the independent road to development as charted by President Saddam Hussein in the National Declaration which outlined the relationship between the Arab nation and its neighbours", the statement elaborated.

The GFIW's statement called upon Arab women masses to urge their governments to sever their relations with the Persian regime in compliance with Iraq's call, after it was proved beyond doubt that the regime had exploited such relations to carry out subversion and hatch conspiracies in the neighbourly Arab countries.

The statement also condemned the crimes being committed by the Persian regime against Iranian women and cited incidents of the Iranian authorities executing pregnant, old women

and minor girls.

It called upon women organisations all over the world to expose the atrocities of the Persian regime and the inhuman acts being committed by the Iranian authorities against the principles of human rights and social liberties.

"This attitude is consistent with the international conventions which are being violated by the Iranian regime; it goes in line with the international peaceful efforts to which Iraq has responded favourably out of its concern for world peace and security", the statement added.

The GFIW addressed a cable of thanks and appreciation to President Saddam Hussein for the resolute support extended by him and the Revolution of Iraq to the Federation and women masses, thus translating into reality the principles of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party.

"The Iraqi women who appreciate the keen attention and sincere concern of the President, are resolved to live up to the responsibility of defending the Homeland and participating effectively in its development", the cable said.

AUTONOMY REGION'S AGRICULTURE PLANS DISCUSSED

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 12 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

Mr Amir Mehdi Saleh, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and Mr Abdul Wahab Mahmoud, Minister of Irrigation, arrived in Arbil from Nineveh on Sunday afternoon and discussed with Mr Jamal al-Haj Sharif, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Autonomy Region, the progress made on the irrigation projects currently being built in Arbil Plain.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General of Autonomy Region's Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Department, and other senior officials of the Region concerned with agriculture.

It was decided at the meeting to take census of the number of farmers whose lands fall under the Arbil Plain irrigation project which covers an area of 40,000 donums. It was also decided that concerned officials prepare a detailed study of the area and submit proposals on how best to develop it.

As regards the farmers in the Arbil Plain it was deci-

ded that specialists meet them and instruct them on modern irrigation methods and supply them with agriculture implements, necessary machinery and transport. It was also decided to build a repair workshop for them and provide them with a mobile repair workshop to travel around villages in the area.

Annual conference

Later the two Ministers attended the annual agricultural conference of the Autonomy Region.

Participants in the conference were Chairman of the Legislative Council, Mr Jamal al-Haj Sharif, Secretary-General of Autonomy Region's Administration Department, Deputy Governor of Arbil, secretary of Ba'th Party branch in Arbil, and representatives of the local annual conferences from Arbil, Sulaimania and Dohouk provinces.

Addressing the conference Mr Jamal al-Haj Sharif,

called on the participants to submit appropriate proposals and take decisions that would help develop and improve agriculture in the Autonomy Region. He added: "The present stage requires of all of us to rise up to the occasion and fulfill our responsibility, each from our own position".

The Secretary-General of the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Autonomy Region, who presided at the annual conference, stressed the important role of all working in the field of agriculture and called for applying modern methods in their work that would support the national economy and the battle against Persian aggression.

Other speakers at the conference were Secretary of Farmers Office of the Ba'th Party branch in Arbil, deputy chairman of General Federation of Farmers Societies and chairman of the Agriculture Workers Union. They all underlined the importance of annual conferences as an appropriate forum to review

progress made and obstacles encountered.

A report was read at the conference on last year's summer and winter seasons agriculture plan. This plan included planting of an area of 2.8 million donums with winter crops, 73,000 donums with summer crops and 49,393 donums with tobacco.

Commenting on the report the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform said that it was incumbent upon all to bring into fruition the guidelines and instructions of President Saddam Hussein when executing plans for which various development sectors are responsible particularly the agriculture sector.

The Minister gave an outline of the projects being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the Arbil Province including the irrigation projects in Arbil

Plain, Makhmur irrigation project, and several others.

The three-day conference will discuss the agriculture plans submitted by the three Autonomy provinces. Later their conclusions will be submitted to the national annual conference.

Yesterday the two Ministers met at the offices of the Legislative Council with the concerned agriculture officials and discussed the role of Legislative Council in boosting the level and quality of farming in the area.

The secretary of the Bath Party branch in the Province gave an outline of the assistance given by Party organisations to develop agriculture.

Later the annual conference resumed for the second day, and was attended by the two Ministers.

CSO: 4400/125

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER URGES GREATER PRODUCTIVITY, PARTICIPATION IN WAR

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 82 p 4

[Text]

The National Assembly yesterday passed the general Budget, the Annual Investment Plan and the Foreign Trade Programme for the current year after 2-day discussions within its second round of meetings under the chairmanship of Mr Naeem Haddad, National Assembly Speaker.

At the conclusion of the session, Mr Haddad paid tribute to the Ba'th Party and Revolution headed by President Saddam Hussein and lauded the resolute determination of the great masses of Iraq to redouble their efforts for implementing development programmes and increasing production.

"This will consolidate the national economy and enhance the pace of cultural progress to support the just battle being waged by Iraq on behalf of the Arab nation against the racist Persians", Mr Haddad added.

The three budgets constitute positive indicators to the policy-line adopted by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party to keep up the pace of socialist-nationalist-revolutionary construction of

Iraq. They provide evidence to the far-reaching positive circumstances marking the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya and the historic leadership of President Saddam Hussein which has proved to be prudent both in the course of commanding the battle and in the steering the process of development and construction, with utmost capability and strategic efficiency.

"In the name of the National Assembly which represents the broad masses of Iraq, we extend greetings and appreciation to the leadership of the Party and Revolution headed by President Saddam Hussein and call upon the masses of our people to carry on exerting relentless efforts to raise production rates and improve production quality to consolidate our national economy and protect our great achievements", Mr Haddad said.

The Speaker called on National Assembly Members to volunteer and place themselves at the disposal of the Leader, President Saddam Hussein thus living up to the oath they have taken before the people who selected them to the membership of the Assembly.

"Every Iraqi citizen, brothers and sisters, is required under the present phase to confirm his or her originality and conscious affiliation with this glorious people, not only by carrying arms to fight the enemy, but also by exerting additional efforts. Millions of Iraqi workers and farmers will have to raise the rates of their production in the plants and farms, in the course of carrying out the agricultural plan and the national development programme. The state bodies are also required to live up to the level of their national responsibilities in accomplishing an optimum standard of performance.

"We also call upon the masses to rationalise consumption, raise the volume of savings and exercise accurate supervision over the executive bodies.

"The Iraqi women are required as ever before, to participate effectively in the struggle of our people and in attaining the above aims", Mr Haddad said.

On this occasion, Mr Haddad expressed gratitude to Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan, the First Deputy Prime Minister, for attending the National Assembly meetings and explaining the economic policy of the Rev-

olution. He also thanked Mr Hassan Ali, RCC member and Minister of Trade and Mr Thamir Razouqi Minister of Finance and acting Minister of Planning.

The National Assembly Speaker also expressed gratitude to all the officials in the Ministries of Planning, Finance and Trade for the explanations they made in respect of the General Budget, the Annual Investment Plan and the Foreign Trade Programme.

At the beginning of the session Mr Hassan Ali replied to a number of questions put to him by Members of the National Assembly on items of the Import Programme, while Mr Thamir Razouqi replied to those concerning the current General Budget and the Annual Investment Plan.

The National Assembly adopted a resolution to extend thanks to Mr Hassan Ali RCC member and Min-

ister of Trade and Mr Thamir Razouqi, Minister of Finance and acting Minister of Planning for their efforts in the drafting the budgets.

Mr Sa'd Qassim Hammoudi, Member of the National Assembly, spoke at the morning session yesterday to pay tribute to the marvellous leadership of President Saddam Hussein who has efficiently steered the two battles of liberation and development. He called upon the executive bodies to abide by the principles of rational implementation of the plans involved to meet the requirements of the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya and to highlight the glorious doctrines of struggle.

The other speakers who called for intensive efforts to carry out the budgets and programmes urged the citizens to volunteer for the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

KURDS SAID TO VOLUNTEER IN MASSIVE NUMBERS

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 20 Jan 82 p 4

[Text]

Employees of the State Establishments in Sulaimaniya province declared themselves volunteers in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

At a rally organised by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party branch in the province, the masses and employees expressed their resolute determination to join the Armed Forces in defending the Homeland and supporting the victories being scored against the racist enemy.

The rally was addressed by the Governor of Sulaimaniya, the secretary and members of the Party's branch, who spoke of the requirements of the current stage under present circumstances.

In Chwarta and Qara Dagh district of the Province workers also expressed their willingness to volunteer in contributing to the national battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

A rally organised by the local council of the General Federation of Trade Unions was addressed by an official from the Workers office in the party's branch, on the tasks and obligations of workers under present circumstances.

mstances.

Masses of Nadir, Shawi, Iskan, Amir, Zahra', and other villages in the province expressed their willingness and determination to participate in the battle against the Persian enemy.

Ta'meem

Masses of Ta'meem Province also declared themselves volunteers in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya and expressed resolute devotion to President Saddam Hussein and to Iraqi Revolution for facing up to all the enemies of the Arab nation.

Hundreds of volunteers have recorded their names to the offices of the professional and mass organisations in the province to participate in the battle of destiny against the enemies of the Arab nation.

According to a statement by the head of the local council of the GFTU, 8000 male and female workers have volunteered in the province of Ta'meem.

Babylon

In Babylon, members of the sports clubs declared themselves volunteers for the battle. This was made at a celebration to observe

the 19th anniversary of the
Ramadhan 14 Revolution.

Najaf

In Mishkhab sub-district, province of Najaf teachers and students demanded that they be allowed to participate in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

Dhiqar

Farmers of Souq al-Shy-oukh, Shatra and Fadhiliya, in the province of Dhiqar who met at a rally organised by the local council of the Farmers Association expressed their willingness to join the Armed Forces in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

Anbar

The secretary of Anbar branch of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party expressed in a statement to Iraqi News Agency correspondent that the offices of the Party organisations in the province were witnessing unprecedented demands to volunteer in the Special Task Force units currently being prepared for the battle.

"These masses are competing for the acquisition of the honour of participation in the battle, through which they have displayed an extremely high standard of devotion to the Party and Revolution and to President Saddam Hussein", he said.

Kerbala

Masses of Ain Tamur district in the province of Kerbala, expressed profound devotion to and respect for President Saddam Hussein and paid tribute to the victories achieved by Iraq's Armed Forces against the racist Persian enemy. They declared their willingness to fight side by side with the Armed Forces to force the Persian enemy to recognise Iraq's legitimate rights over its land and water.

During the lectures festival held at the district to celebrate the great victories achieved by the Army in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya and to observe the 19th anniversary of February 8 Revolution, which was attended by the Governor of Kerbala, secretary of Kerbala branch of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, members of the Party organisation in Ain Tamur and heads of the provisional, popular and state organisation and departments, the masses lauded the series of victories scored by the Armed Forces of Iraq on all battle fronts to frustrate the imperialist-Zionist schemes against Iraq's Revolution and abort the intrigues being hatched in cooperation with the traitors who hold only nominally Arab nationality.

YOUTH SAID WILLING TO VOLUNTEER

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 19 Jan 82 p 5

[Text] Youth units in the Futuwa organisation in Babylon demanded to be given the opportunity to participate in the battle of national dignity against the racist Persian enemy.

At a plenary meeting organised yesterday boys and girls were given the opportunity to volunteer for the battle.

The meeting also considered a programme of celebration on the 19th anniversary of February 8 Revolution, including seminars, speaking and poetry festivals, socialist competition and a celebration for the award of medals to distinguished Futuwa.

In the province of Basra, thousands of citizens in the district of Zubair participated in a seminar organised by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party organisation.

The masses urged for an opportunity to be provided to them to undertake military training in preparation for participation in the Battle of Saddam's Qadisiya against the racist Persian enemy.

Masses in various other parts in the province were urging for such opportuni-

ties to participate in the battle.

The provincial office of the GFTU held a seminar to explain the assignments which should be undertaken by the worker masses in the oil and services sectors under the present circumstances. Workers, men and women competed to have their names enlisted among the volunteers to participate in safeguarding the Homeland against the vicious aggression of the Persian enemy.

In Saladdin, the Chairman and members of the trade unions Executive Committee declared their willingness to volunteer for the battle. They also resolved to organise seminars on the job sites to explain the tasks which should be undertaken by the working class to support the victories being achieved by the Iraqi Army against the racist enemy.

The local council of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Muthanna organised two seminars to explain the nationalist dimensions of the Battle of Saddam's Qadisiya.

At the conclusion of both seminars, the participants declared themselves volunteers in the battle against the

racist enemy to curb the Persian danger to Iraq and the Arab Gulf.

The personnel of oil departments in the province of Meisan also declared themselves volunteers for the Battle of Saddam's Qadisiya, and expressed determination to retaliate the enemy.

In Anbar, heads and members of the Farmers Cooperatives expressed resolute determination to participate, as volunteers, in the battle against the racist enemy, while heads and members of the people's Councils in Hawija, Riyadh and Abbas areas in the Ta'meem Province resolved to place all their potentialities at the disposal of the battle against the racist enemy until victory is achieved.

In Anbar Province, the preparatory committee headed by the Deputy Governor decided to organise six festivals beginning from Jan 23 to mark the 19th anniversary of February 8 revolution. The festivals will be held in Ramadi, Falluja, Ilit, Haditha, Ana and Qa'em cities. Two sub-committees will be formed in each city to supervise the festivals.

TRADE UNION FEDERATION URGES VOLUNTEERISM, GREATER PRODUCTIVITY

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

At the conclusion of its 19th session the Central Council of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) on Saturday adopted a number of resolutions recommendations involving the professional and organisational aspects of the trade union movement for the forthcoming phase in the light of the directives put forth by the leadership of the Ba'th Party and the Revolution headed by President Saddam Hussein.

Within the context of these resolutions and recommendations the Council considered the directives of the leadership as documents to be implemented.

The Council, therefore, decided to give highest priority to higher rates and better quality of production, together with volunteering in defence of the honour and dignity of the Arab nation.

The recommendations also envisaged extraordinary efforts for the development of national economy to render victory into an unquestionable fact in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya.

The Council's resolutions stressed the necessity of achieving the most optimum utilisation of working hours and the most economical use of raw materials and primary goods, with due respect to the adoption of sound planning of production to eliminate various bottlenecks.

The Council considered as the expressive criterion of trade union leaderships the extent to which they contribute both to the volunteering activity and improvement of production both in quality and quantity.

It called upon Arab and international trade union organisations to condemn the crimes committed by the Iranian ruling clique by turning down Iraq's positive initiatives to arrange a peaceful settlement, and to denounce the violations committed by the Iranian regime of the international conventions by executing Iraqi prisoners of war and bombing the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut in coordination with the agent Syrian regime.

The recommendations also called upon the Arab workers to hold high the banner of struggle in defence of the Arab nation and to participate in the battle of Saddam's Qadissiya. The Arab workers were urged to press their government to cut off their relations with the Persian regime which is carrying out imperialist and Zionist schemes.

The Council resolved to consider Monday every week a working day for members of trade union committees. The day is to be called "The Working Day of Saddam's Qadissiya", on which conferences are to be held with a view to promoting professional efficiency and coordinating professional and administrative activities.

The Council also devoted due attention to the necessity attending various conferences and seminars to enhance the relationship between Arab trade union organisations and benefit from the studies and research papers related to trade union activity and professional development.

RAMADI DEVELOPMENT CITED

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 82 p 5

[Text] Like other Iraqi cities, Ramadi, the provincial headquarters of Anbar Province, is looking forward to a bright future after years of neglect and backwardness. The city is witnessing rapid development.

It takes over an hour from Baghdad to reach Ramadi by a well-paved 80 km road on one side of which are orchards and palm groves. These trees keep the Western Desert of Iraq from spreading.

Signs of modern life can be seen every where in the province, the largest in the country, constituting 31.5 per cent out of the 172,476 square miles area of Iraq.

The Governor spoke optimistically about the future and said that this province has witnessed tremendous transformation, both on the social and economic levels.

He said that the pace of development has been accelerated especially in 1981 despite war conditions. "The projects which President Saddam Hussein ordered to be implemented during his visit of the province last year have been completed", he said.

These included 200 houses, 144 housing apartments and many other projects.

Two million dinars were also allocated by the President for the province's Municipality to be spent on various public services projects. A network of pure water pipes has been installed in the province in addition to the pavement and levelling of streets.

Local Administration Department has also completed projects worth ID 13.105 million. They are, 67 primary schools, five kindergartens and 219 houses for government employees.

76 more projects are currently under construction at a total cost of ID 13.132 million. They include health, ambulance, maternity care, fire-fighting and civil defence centres, students hostels, 184 houses for government employees and maintenance of a number of old school buildings.

ID two million were spent in 1981 on pure water projects, which will cover by the end of 1982 most parts of the province.

The Directorate of Sewerage and Pure Water took delivery of 19 tankers as a gift from President Saddam Hussein, to carry water to villages in remote rural areas.

Water projects, costing ID 23.156 million are currently under construction.

A wide network of pure water pipes is being laid in the districts of Fallouja, Na'imiyah, Daghar and Kurma, which is expected to be ready before the completion of these projects.

More water projects will be inaugurated in the first half of this year in the sub-districts of Al-Karabla, Al-Karma and Abu Fleis. The authorities have also laid the foundation stones of another 300 km network of pipelines which will meet the requirements of the far away districts for pure water.

The Municipality spent in 1981 a total of ID 5.63 million on various public services projects.

3,700 plots of land were also distributed to the army personnel and other people to build their houses on. The municipality is expected to distribute 6800 more plots in 1982.

The province's municipality has also undertaken a number of irrigation projects, including an ID million drainage project and an ID 21 million land reclamation project in Fallouja.

Four big pumping stations will be installed this year for drainage and irrigation purposes.

AIR FORCE'S PERFORMANCE PRAISED

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 9 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

When our just battle started in defence of the dignity of the homeland and the nation and to repulse the Persian aggressors, our air force pilots were in the forefront of other services of the armed forces in directing devastating blows to the rotten heads of fanaticism, arrogance and chauvinism in Iran.

On the 22nd of September 1980, and in answer to an escalating Persian aggression, our valiant air force pilots mounted their well-known strike to 18 military targets of the enemy. The strike which was perfect and to the minute displayed high technical skill and efficiency of Iraqi air force pilots and their optimal use of air force weapons.

In the subsequent operations, Iraqi pilots took their full dimension in display of absolute control in the skies of the battle and in defending Iraqi airspace. Their sacrifices for the cause of the nation continued with high enthusiasm and some of them shed their blood in defence of the homeland and the dignity of the nation.

At the press conference held on 10th November 1980, President Saddam Hussein pointed to the high standard of efficiency with which so-called Persian superiority was destroyed despite the heavy arsenals but at the disposal of the Persians. The President said: "Let them fly their F-16 planes onto Iraqi skies and they will be knocked down on our lands. F-14 planes were shot and destroyed by Mig 21 because Iraq is using its brain and its faith-embracing blood".

As days and months go by, our heroic air force pilots keep dealing successive blows to positions, equipment and economic installations of the enemy. But with the onset of the second year of the fighting, Iraqi air force pilots escalated in a spectacular manner their raids on enemy positions so that seldom a military communique is issued without a mention of new air force feats.

On 8th of September 1981, Iraqi air force pla-

nes carried out 85 sorties opening up daily attacks which information media described as record in their numbers relative to the duration of the fighting. And in subsequent raids air force pilots dealt devastating blows to Garra oil station on the Karj island, the principal export terminal of Persia.

That blow paralysed vital links in the Iranian economy. Specialised economic bulletins quoted reliable petroleum sources as saying that Garra pumping station was brought to standstill as a result of the major damage inflicted by Iraqi planes. Repair operations might take months and therefore the damage had serious repercussions on Iranian oil export levels.

In the dawn of Monday 19th October, formations of Iraqi fighter-bombers attacked the major port of Bandar Shahpour and nearby military targets scoring direct hits and inflicting material damage on the

port estimated at U.S. 500 million, in addition to the damage already left by air raids of last year.

News agencies also reported Iraqi bombers having destroyed principal links in the U.S. \$3600-million petro-chemical project. This made the Japanese firm in charge of the project to warn the Iranian government that unless Iran bore the full losses involved the firm would have to abandon the job.

The port of Bander Shahpour is one of the biggest Iranian ports on the Arab Gulf linked to the capital, Tehran, and to other important Iranian cities. It has 40 major docks for imports and exports. The paralysing of the port's export and import capacities affects the entire Iranian economy. The port's facilities represent 60 percent of the maritime transport capacity of Iran.

CSO: 4400/125

PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR OIL INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Baghdad BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 20 Jan 82 p 2

[Article by Mousa Jabar]

[Text]

Among the various functions of the State Establishment for Oil Training (SEOT) (which comprise the preparation of manpower to the oil sector, the provision of study programmes and leaves in co-ordination with other competent authorities and the catering of consultancy services for problems of oil production), the establishment and administration of oil training centres constitute a major responsibility for SEOT.

The Establishment's 1982 work plan concentrates on the concept of collective training of personnel of the oil sector inside the country, and the expansion in the task of developing middle technical cadre. The plan also envisages the introduction of computerized systems for students enrollment, to unify curricula of oil training institutes and the promotion of translation and writing activities related to them.

Mr Mishal Mohammad Hamodat, SEOT director general, stated that the Establishment also intends to set up three training centres one of which is to be established in Basra, whilst the other two in Baghdad. Technical studies are already being carried out for this purpose.

On July 14th 1970, the Petroleum Training Centre (PTC) was inaugurated. Actual teaching and training activities commenced on January 15th 1972. PTC was entrusted with the followi-

ng tasks:-

— Preparation of earmarked technical and professional cadre for the numerous establishments of the oil sector.

— Development of oil staff through their participation in specialized and periodical courses to be organised in compliance with actual needs of this sector.

— The qualification of middle technical cadre for brotherly Arab countries and some other friendly states.

— The provision of consultancy and technical services for the oil establishments on issues falling within the centre's training programmes and plans.

The Petroleum Training Centre consists of 43 lecturing classes equipped with all the necessary audio-visual aids and miniature models of projects and some oil equipment.

Constructed on an overall area of 75 thousand square meters, the PTC enco-

mpasses three dormitories, each to accomodate over 700 trainees. It also includes a modern restaurant and a library containing more than 5000 books, in addition to 28 workshops, laboratory and a meeting hall for conferences.

Mr. Hamodat added that the Centre provides teaching facilities for 16 specializations representing most oil field operations which assist in the qualification of trainees to undertake, on graduation, a wide spectrum of skilled jobs in the productive process of the oil sector. The aforementioned specializations range from training in the fields of wells drilling, oil production methods, technical operations, chemical analysis to topographical surveys, civil construction and administration of materials.

While candidates for the Centre's basic courses are to be secondary graduates (scientific section), the period of study extends for two

calendar years, on the conclusion of which a technical diploma is awarded for the trainee.

The Centre also accepts graduates of intermediary schools for special courses designed to qualify middle professional cadre. Period of studies for these courses runs for three years after which the trainee is granted a certificate equal to that of the Industrial Secondary School.

The Petroleum Training Centre also organises promotional courses lasting for 6—10 weeks with the objective of improving the efficiency of workers in the oil sector.

During the summer vacation the Centre carries out some field training activities, through the organisation of field visits to work sites so as to enlighten students on the full operations of oil production.

The director general pointed out that the teaching staff of the Centre consists of 70 highly qualified eng-

ineers in addition to 85 trainers of various specializations all of them are Iraqis.

As to the future perspectives, the Centre intends to increase its teaching and training staff, through the attraction of highly efficient elements, as well as the expansion of its premises and the installation of the most up to date illustration means in a manner that will enable it to absorb the increasing numbers of students. It is envisaged to raise the centre's absorptive capacity to 1500 trainees. The construction of more workshops, dormitories, and 800 seat restaurant are also planned.

A noticeable phenomenon among trainees of the Centre is the presence of a large number of females in practically every teaching and training department at the PTC. Female engineers delivering lectures in the Centre's various courses presents another radiant character of feminine participation in this respect.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS--Banjul, 16 Feb (INA)--The Gambian president, Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, has received the credentials of Nadim Ahmad al-Yasin, as Iraq's nonresident ambassador to the Republic of Gambia. [JN161805 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Feb 82]

OUTGOING USSR AMBASSADOR--Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received this morning USSR Ambassador in Baghdad Anatoliy Barkovskiy at the end of the latter's term in office in Iraq. During the meeting which was attended by Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, relations between the two friendly countries were discussed. [Text] [JN161025 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Feb 82]

CSO: 4404/265

ARENS ON AMBASSADORIAL POST, LIKUD'S FUTURE

TAl11330 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Feb 82 p 3

[Interview with Israel Ambassador-designate to the United States Prof Moshe Arens by Avi Bettelheim; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Professor Arens, why did you accept the post of ambassador to the United States? Is this another step in your political career?

Answer: Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked me to assume this post and I agreed; it is a challenge. I hope to do a good job and, in any event, I will make a great effort. I do not regard my political dealings as a career or as an attempt to climb up the ladder.

Question: Why did you refuse to assume the post of defense minister or any other ministerial post in Menahem Begin's cabinet?

Answer: The answer is clear. Had I been defense minister I would be responsible for the evacuation of the Sinai settlers. That is also the reason why I refused to be a cabinet minister. I did not feel that I could shoulder the collective responsibility.

Question: Rumors were rife in the Herut movement that you are actually a man who shirks heavy personal responsibility.

Answer: Whoever thinks so, let him; I do not have anything to add to this. In my life I have been responsible for some rather great things. Heading the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee is not a post lacking responsibility and it cannot be said that the post of ambassador to the United States does not entail some responsibility.

Question: What is your "credo" regarding your new post and what are the chief goals you have set yourself?

Answer: I see five chief aspects in this post: The political aspect--attending to relations between the Israeli Government and the U.S. administration; the public relations aspect--explaining Israel's positions to the U.S. public; the economic aspect--encouraging investments in Israel, mainly in science-based industries; fostering relations between the IDF and the Defense Ministry and

the U.S. Defense Department; and maintaining and promoting relations with the U.S. Jewish community.

Question: Is it possible that during your stay in Washington you may reach the conclusion that you can no longer discharge your duties as ambassador?

Answer: I do not think I will reach such a state. Were the United States to think that Israel does not have to fulfill its commitments according to the peace treaty and were I to explain why the withdrawal was good and necessary, there could be a problem and I would not be able to perform my duties. However, to our regret the situation is exactly the opposite and my duty as ambassador will be to explain in the United States that Israel cannot and is not prepared to agree to any further concessions.

Question: There are people who say that your hawkish positions and particularly your recent statements about the Reagan administration will make it difficult for you in Washington.

Answer: I can only reply to this in a few months. However, I think that just as the Israeli Government must be interested in the U.S. ambassador here being a loyal conveyor of the U.S. administration's thoughts, so must Washington be interested in the Israeli ambassador to the United States being a loyal conveyor of the Israeli Government's views.

Question: Are you for the unification of the Likud?

Answer: Certainly, this is vital, this step must be carried out. The current situation whereby the distribution of the Knesset seats is determined according to an agreement reached 17 years ago is certainly neither an aesthetical nor even an ethical situation.

Question: In your opinion, can the current coalition survive until 1985? Under which conditions would you favor holding early elections?

Answer: As a rule I do not believe in holding early elections unless the government cannot hold out any longer. A coalition of 61 Knesset members can also be strong. It is clear that if members of the coalition decided to quit the situation might change. However, it does not seem to me that this will be the case. On the contrary, one or two opposition factions may join the government in the foreseeable future.

Question: What will happen to the Herut movement after Menahem Begin's retirement?

Answer: The Herut movement is a very large party and we have many talented members. I assume that any time quite a number of members will be found who would regard themselves and who would also be considered by others to be talented and capable of assuming leadership. These people include current senior members of Herut as well as others whose names have not yet been considered.

Question: Like 'Ezer Weizman or Shmu'el Tamir?

Answer: I am in favor of anybody joining or resuming his activities in the Likud. It is no secret that I do not see eye-to-eye with 'Ezer Weizman on political and security issues and, therefore I would not be in favor of him holding a key post in the Likud. I regard Weizman as one of the chief persons responsible for the vast concessions in the peace treaty. As for Shmu'el Tamir, I believe that he can contribute a great deal and I am very sorry that he was prevented at the last minute before the elections from joining the Likud. If Tamir is a delegate at the upcoming Herut convention, that will be good news.

CSO: 4423/89

POSSIBLE FUTURE COALITIONS EXAMINED

TA101505 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 82 p 5

[Commentary by Dani'el Bloch: "After April"]

[Excerpts] There are two parallel political configurations in Israel at present: One that will be functioning until the end of April, and one that will start functioning, if at all, after April. The present configuration is well known: A 61 seat coalition that will not split on the main issues before 26 April and none of whose members would attempt to cause a cabinet downfall before that date. One should therefore take with a grain of salt all the declarations of loyalty by ministers and Knesset members from the Liberal Party or other parties, that they have no intention to bring down the cabinet, to secede from the Likud or join a coalition with the Alignment. All this is true only until the end of April. Afterwards, everything is open for political maneuvers.

After April, the political structure will be faced with three other options: A continued coalition in the present form, an expanded coalition by coopting Tehiya and Telem, or the establishment of an alternative government headed by the Alignment. Meanwhile, however, there is no prospect for general elections, since most parties and, notably, Mafdal and Tami, are not ready for this in the foreseeable future.

The Likud leaders will spare no effort to expand somewhat the coalition basis, knowing that after April, the ties still maintaining the coalition stability will start disintegrating. Moderate Knesset members such as Avraham Melamed from Mafdal, and Dror Zeigerman and Dan Tikhon from the Likud's Liberals, will feel free to go their independent ways; Agudat Yisra'el will demand ultimately the religious legislation that had been promised them, but for which not all the Liberals will vote. Tami cannot be depended upon, particularly not after the end of Minister Abu-Hatzera's trial. The behavior of various coalition members cannot be estimated in the face of new political and security developments, when confronted with outside pressures, or extreme domestic measures in the spheres of security and legislation, such as the annexation of Judaea and Samaria, or similar developments.

In view of this, there exists the possibility of an alternative government led by the Alignment. Theoretically, such a cabinet can be established on the basis of the Alignment, Telem and Shinuy, with the addition of two of the three parties:

Mafdal, Tami or Agudat Yisra'el is the most problematic on the other hand, and most convenient on the other. It is problematic where religious legislation is concerned--the Alignment cannot give them everything the Likud promised, and certainly not what the Likud won't deliver. On the other hand, the Aguda is more convenient because of its political positions, which are nearer to the Labor Party than the Herut movement.

In any event, an Alignment coalition is preferable to a Likud coalition, because an alternative government would be more open and flexible in the political sphere, less adventurous militarily, and more efficient economically. However, a coalition of the Alignment, Mafdal, Agudat Yisra'el and Tami does not yet augur a political and socio-economic revolution in behavior and morals, not even a return to the glorious era of Labor Party governments. The only hope in this regard is the potential secession of enlightened moderate elements from the Liberal Party, leading to an ideological and organizational independence, and the establishment of a political alliance needed by the state of Israel after April, an alliance between the labor movement, a liberal center and moderate religious elements from the traditional National Religious Party.

The issue has been recently discussed between Labor Party figures and various Liberal Party members, and not only with Minister Berman and MK's Tikhon and Zeigerman. At this stage the discussions have reached no practical conclusions, but the Liberal functionaries are leaving all options open for the month of May. One of the key questions will be Prime Minister Menahem Begin's health and his ability to function. The moderate Liberal ministers, as well as the enlightened Knesset members feel a personal commitment to Begin and thus will not be inclined to aid in the downfall of his cabinet unless, in an extreme case, they are forced to vote against their conscience. However, if Begin resigns, or should he wish to advance the elections, different developments may be expected. Most of the Liberals do not feel the same commitment to Sharon, Shamir, Levi or Aridor. A situation may also arise where the cabinet will fall not because of a segment of the Liberals but because of Agudat Yisra'el, Tami or a part of Mafdal. If Begin is unable to form a new cabinet and if there is not a Knesset majority in favor of new elections, at least a part of the Liberals will feel freed of moral obligations toward Begin.

There is no call to recommend to anyone to order clothes for a minister or to take top hats out of cupboards. The possibility exists that a Likud government will continue serving normally and stably until November 1985. But after April, all the options are open: No combination is impossible, and no option is to be dismissed in advance if enough Knesset members can be found who will not have only their personal interest on their minds.

CSO: 4423/89

LIKELY SYRIAN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI LEBANESE MOVE

TA140834 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] An Israeli offensive in Southern Lebanon will bring in its wake massive Syrian intervention on the side of the terrorists and the left, a move which is liable to expand into direct, if limited confrontation with the IDF.

Nor is Syria ruling out the possibility of the situation deteriorating into a full-scale war, even though it wishes to prevent such a situation because of its awareness of the IDF's military superiority. This assessment was made on Friday, 12 February, by an Arab correspondent who is close to government circles in Damascus, and it is based also on the impression formed by foreign diplomats following talks with Syrian representatives.

According to this assessment, in the event of a limited Israeli move in Southern Lebanon, Syria will not intervene directly but will help the terrorists and the leftists cope with the IDF with all the means at its disposal. On the other hand, if the IDF launches an extensive operation, with the aim of seizing permanent footholds deep in Southern Lebanon, the Syrians will help the terrorists and the leftists to wage a war of attrition against the IDF, with the Syrian Army becoming involved in limited combat operations and thus risking a deterioration to full-scale war.

In the event of a total confrontation, Syria will employ its entire strength and will strive to drag the Soviet Union into direct involvement. If the Soviets refuse, their presence in Syria will be terminated and the Syrian Army will conduct the campaign on its own, adopting a scorched earth combat policy.

CSO: 4423/89

NEW URBAN CENTER PLANNED FOR WEST BANK

TA141059 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 82 pp 1-2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Text] An area of 4,000 dunam south of Jerusalem in the West Bank was on 12 February declared state land for the purpose of establishing a new urban center to be called Betar. This center will be built in the area between Ra's Bayt Jala and the village of Batir.

Last Thursday and Friday the military government informed the mukhtars of the villages of Batir and (Waljiyah) that an area of 4,000 dunam adjacent to their villages had been declared state land, and that if the residents had any objections on this matter they were to submit an appeal through the normal channels (to the military government's appeals board). Most of the area which is reported to be rocky land, will be earmarked for the establishment of a large new urban neighborhood which will constitute a self-contained unit.

Sources in the Land Settlement Department of the World Zionist Organization said yesterday that the new center would be built near the ancient site of Betar, south of the railway tracks. According to surveys made by staff of the Israel Land Administration, most of the area is state land and includes also Jewish-owned plots that were purchased even before the war of independence.

It is also reported that even though neither the Ministerial Settlement Committee nor any other authorized body has as yet given official approval for the project, initial preparations are already underway for the center's establishment, such as survey work and land seizures.

The Land Settlement Department adds that the new center will be built close to the boundary of metropolitan Jerusalem, near the Gilo and 'Ir Ganin neighborhoods, and close to Ira and 'Aminadav southwest of the city. This will continue the trend of building urban neighborhoods around Jerusalem: Efrat, Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev.

In its initial stage the new urban center will have several thousand residential apartments.

Members of the Nabulus Municipal Council yesterday complained that the Israeli Electricity Company removed several electric poles from near the Balatah refugee camp. They say that the Israeli military government has for several months been waging a campaign aimed at preventing neighborhoods that are remote from downtown Nabulus from hooking up to the local municipal power grid on the grounds that it is unsafe and does not meet the regular standards.

Security sources said yesterday evening that the poles that were removed had been installed in violation of safety regulations and without the authorization of the staff officer for electricity in the military government. They added that the municipality had been forewarned that the poles would be removed and that it would have to pay the expenses for this.

Residents of the villages of (Dayr Balut) and Dik, in Samaria, sent messages over the weekend to the Israeli military government protesting the seizure of land in their area. It should be noted that in the area of (Dayr Balut) preparations have recently been completed for the establishment of a new community settlement to be called Yerov'am (temporary name: Bet Arye B).

CSO: 4423/89

JUDAEA, SAMARIA BUDGET TO FAVOR AREA VILLAGE LEAGUES

TA121220 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Feb 82 p 3

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] Next year's budget for Judaea and Samaria will give complete priority to that part of Arab population of Judaea and Samaria which cooperates with the Israeli administration. That group includes the populace active within the framework of the area village leagues.

This will be the first time since the 6-day war that state resources have been directly funneled to the rural populace that has been neglected for years. Activity among the villages constitutes a touchstone to test the success of the civilian administration established in Judaea and Samaria 3 months ago.

A meeting was held yesterday in the office of the coordinator of activities in the occupied territories [title as published] to review the achievements that have been made so far as a result of the very establishment of the five area village leagues.

Government and security elements believe that under the political circumstances in which the rural population which is ready to cooperate with Israel finds itself, it is necessary to direct as much money as possible to help it withstand pressures applied to it both at home and from the outside. The head of the Hebron area village league, Mustafa Dudin, claims he needs a budget that runs about 80 million shekels for the next fiscal year in order to function properly. The other four area village leagues demand smaller allocations, but the sum total reaches more than 350 million shekels.

This sum of money will be slated primarily for infrastructure work, including paving roads, laying water and sewage pipes and electricity lines as well as setting up educational institutions and health services. The remainder of the sum will probably be channeled toward agricultural training and the marketing of the produce.

CSO: 4423/89

DECLINE IN 1981 TERRORIST ACTIVITY

TA121234 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Feb 82 p 3

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Last year there was a drop in the number of terrorist activities within the Green Line and Jerusalem and the resultant number of casualties also dropped compared with the year before.

Data compiled by the police shows that there were 183 incidents in 1981 inside Israel and the territories, as against 253 in 1980. Eighty-two of them happened within the Green Line boundaries and in Jerusalem in 1981, compared with 117 in 1980.

Last year 43 people were the victims of the activities, including 3 dead, compared with 62 casualties (and 1 dead) in 1980.

The report analyzes the reasons for the marked drop in terrorist activity last year, pointing out that the entire world has experienced an upsurge in terrorist activity.

Security elements attribute this success to a number of factors:

--Political squabbles within the Arab countries and the terrorist organizations themselves.

--The neutralization of terrorist activity in countries that serve as terrorists' home base (Jordan and the UN-controlled area in Southern Lebanon).

--The policy of the terrorist organizations, which gives preference to building a future military force over conducting local terrorist activities.

--The IDF preemptive operations in the summer of 1981.

--The activity of the Civil Guard and the effectiveness of the security forces' roadblocks positioned on roads leading to Israel, which has proved to be a deterrent to the terrorists.

The report mentions the fact that of the 45 explosive charges planted in 1981 inside Israel, police sappers managed to detonate 25.

According to the report, in 1981 the terrorists employed a new hit-and-run procedure in isolated areas. As an example, the report mentions the terrorist attacks on the buses in Ma'ale Hahamisha, on the Ramot road and in Jerusalem's Gilo quarter. Terrorist attacks on Israeli military vehicles in the territories were also noted.

The report discloses that workers employed at Israeli building sites also were involved in the planting of bombs.

CSO: 4423/89

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

TA160642 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Feb 82 p 10

[Editorial: "Aridor Back to Square One"]

[Text] After exactly 1 year of Yoram Aridor's "proper" economic policy, inflation is galloping again at the pace it attained under Yiga'el Hurvitz. January's price rise of 8.3 percent, the highest recorded for that month in 30 years, is equivalent to an annual rate of 160 percent. However, Mr Aridor's policy has not only brought the economy full circle with regard to inflation. It has led to serious deterioration.

If last year at this time the 1981 budget prepared by Yiga'el Hurvitz had to be rushed through the Knesset without serious scrutiny, there was at least a legal framework for the government's expenditure. This year there is none--after a year in which Mr Aridor honoured the budget law in a systematic breach and without, so far, paying at least formal respect to the Knesset by having his excess spending of some IS40b sanctioned retroactively by the legislature.

In addition, labour unrest is rife and is on the increase. Unemployment is edging upwards. The reversal of Mr Aridor's earlier policy, on the continuity of which he had, only a few months ago, staked his credibility, hits hardest at the lower income groups. The budget cuts he wants to effect, and cannot get through the Cabinet, let alone lay before the Knesset, do the same.

But worst of all is the serious deterioration that has occurred in the country's foreign payments position. In that area, at least, Mr Hurvitz bequeathed to his successor substantial improvement. According to the data for the first 9 months of 1981, the economy ran up an additional foreign debt of \$1.2 billion, while foreign assets fell by another \$700 million. This does not include a \$500 million loss as a result of the weakening of the European currencies against the dollar, which is not attributable to Mr Aridor's policy but might have been prevented at least partially.

Clearly, it is this deterioration in the foreign payments position that dictated the reversal of Mr Aridor's earlier policy. Given this situation--which may be worse than disclosed by the figures released to the public--Mr Aridor cannot be faulted for backtracking. The question, however, is what sense there was, and what economic and national responsibility there was, in embarking on the earlier

course of self-styled "proper" economic policy. The massive subsidizing of consumer goods and services, that was the pillar of Mr Aridor's policy, might have been a useful component in a comprehensive policy of stabilization. Being the only instrument, it was as solid a support as a one-legged stool.

The results are painfully obvious. The country has been given a few months of a spending spree, at the cost of huge amounts of foreign currency that have gone down the drain. Mr Aridor staked much, if not all, on success in forcing down the inflationary expectations of the public. The sudden about-turn to which he was forced, with the result of an upsurge of inflation, is bound to renew the earlier expectations of high, and possibly accelerating, inflation.

The most important area in which these expectations will soon make themselves felt is the area of wage agreements. The demand of the group of 13 national works committees for a 100 percent cost-of living allowance, in addition to compensation for wage erosion, premiums for overtime and shift work, and other wage increments, is an indication of how expectations will be translated into the language of wage demands.

No political or economic situation is ever hopeless. Mr Aridor has, during the 12 months in which he got the economy into its present mess, demonstrated that he is an able and astute manipulator. Whether the skills he has demonstrated will suffice to extricate the country from the mess, remains to be seen. In any event, it is already abundantly clear that the experiment of "proper" economics was a very expensive exercise.

CSO: 4400/136

BRIEFS

MORE VILLAGE LEAGUES ESTABLISHED--A comprehensive discussion was held yesterday in the office of the coordinator of activities in the territories, Rehavya Vardi, on the subject of the West Bank area village leagues. The meeting was attended by various security elements as well. It has been learned that after the establishment of five such area village leagues through the active help of the Israeli administration (in Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Janin and Qalqilyah), there are now plans to establish another one in Nabulus to counterbalance Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah. The Israeli administration intends to allot toward this end a vast budget, as it can foresee active objection by al-Shak'ah's supporters and the National Guidance Committee to the establishment of that league there. The West Bank area village leagues have recently also been acting as middlemen between the Israeli administration and the local populace in granting permits for family reunifications. Members of the administration hope that the popularity of its leaders will thereby increase. [Text] [TA121204 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 82 p 3]

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RISES--The consumer price index rose last month by 8.3 percent--exceeding all previous forecasts. The spokesman for the Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the figure reflects a rise in nearly all consumption areas. The largest increase, of 15 percent, was registered in housing. An increase of more than 10 percent was marked in the food, housing maintenance, health, transportation and postal services costs. Our correspondent, Gid'on Zelinger, mentions the fact that last month the cabinet resumed the policy of raising the prices of subsidized goods as well as of those services under its supervision. This accounts for a large rise in the index. Similarly, the large rise in apartment prices, which was taken into account in the current survey, influenced the January index. The Histadrut secretary general reacted to the index rise saying that such a high rise--8.32 percent--proves that a worrying shift has occurred in the Israeli economy. He noted that this is the highest rise in the month of January in the last 20 years. He said he is concerned with the growing price hikes, which are a natural result of the abolition of subsidies. Therefore, in negotiations on a multiannual agreement for the payment of a cost-of-living increment, the Histadrut will demand that the dates for implementing the increments will be linked to the pace of price hikes so that the increment will either be paid once every 2 months or once a month if justified. [Text] [TA151857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 82]

NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS--Ground preparation work will start within a few days for three new settlements beyond the Green Line, whose establishment was approved in cabinet. The settlements are Bet Arye B, near Dayr Ballut, for the families of 800 aviation industry workers; Yaqir B, for 1,500 families of persons employed in the free professions; and (Na'alin), east of Modi'in, for 800 families of the Nuclei Hatzav and Herut Betar. Our correspondent Shalom Oren points out that all the houses will be privately built, whereas the infrastructure costs will be borne by the Jewish National Fund. [Text] [TA151040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Feb 82]

REACTION TO PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY--East Jerusalem and Judaea and Samaria security elements are closely following the organization of a Palestinian Communist Party in the area. Their interest stems from the dispute that has already been stirred up among the remnants of the "National Guidance Committee" members and the conflicts it has already raised among those who support recognition of Israel in the 1967 borders and those who oppose any political arrangement with it. It was reported from Arab sources last night that the establishment of a Palestinian Communist Party in the area under Israel control has come at a bad time. "Such a party should have been created 10 years ago. Right now it is of no use. It only sows dissent and increases the separatism and factionalism among us on fundamental issues." According to Arab personalities, the existence of such a Palestinian Communist Party advances the disbandment of the remnants of the "National Guidance Committee," undermines the trade union, increases the internal conflicts among the students and weakens the link between the inhabitants of the territories and the PLO. Security elements have confirmed that the establishment of a Palestinian Communist Party is not to the PLO's liking, nor does the Israeli Rakah Party look upon this favorably. A lot of commotion was stirred up in the region itself against the establishment of such a party, which adheres to Moscow's political line which runs counter to the PLO's policy. [Text] [Report by Yosef Tzuri'el] [TA151020 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 82 p 3]

JORDAN COOPERATION REQUESTED--A senior local civil service worker from the territories has departed for Jordan where he will try to persuade the authorities not to oppose the establishment of an area village league in the Nabulus District. Last week he conferred with the director of the Judaea and Samaria civilian administration on this. Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, has learned that the messenger will promise the Jordanians that the area village leagues will support them if a crisis develops between Jordan and the PLO. He notes that the heads of the existing area village leagues often proclaim their loyalty to Jordan and have urged it to disband its partnership with the PLO. Yesterday it was reported that a senior personality from the territories had left for Amman to request the agreement of the authorities there for the incorporation of local clerks from the territories in senior positions in the civilian administration. [Text] [TA141533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 82]

JEWISH SETTLERS MOVE TO INDUSTRY--Initial data compiled in an employment statistical survey on the Jewish settlers of Judaea and Samaria indicates that there is a marked shift from services to industry. Our settlement affairs correspondent, Shalom Oren, reports that the World Zionist Organization has set up a team of workers that will gather data on the masterplans for the Judaea and Samaria settlements and will also follow up the settlement plan whose objective is to increase the number of Jewish settlers in Judaea and Samaria to 100,000. [Text] [TA150912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Feb 82]

NEW TELEVISION DIRECTOR APPOINTED--Tuviya Sa'ar was elected to become director of television by a majority vote of members of the Tender Committee, which included members of the broadcasting authority's executive board. Sa'ar has been to date director of the television news bulletins. Four candidates were contesting for the post. [Text] [TA122011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 82]

STAFFING OF EMBASSY IN U.S.--The ranking staff in the Israeli Embassy in Washington will for the first time be made up of three Likud members, none a professional diplomat, following the decision of the new ambassador, Professor Moshe Arens, not to make changes at this stage in the senior staff there. [Sentence as published] The embassy's top posts will thus be held by Ambassador Arens, Minister Ya'akov Nehushtan and Press and Information Counselor Tzvi Harry Hurvitz. The Foreign Ministry suggested that a change be made in the minister's post with a professional diplomat being appointed to that senior position. The Foreign Ministry recommended that the current minister, Ya'akov Nehushtan, serve as Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands, but Mr Nehushtan is not presently inclined to accept that offer. It has been learned that in another few months Professor Arens intends to make personnel changes in the senior embassy staff and to rebuild the information section. Professor Arens has said that he intends to return to Israel in 2 months at which time he will decide on the structure of the embassy staff and on the changes he will make. [Text] [TA141406 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Feb 82 p 3]

'IVRI HEADS LAVI PROJECT--The defense minister has appointed the commander of the air force, Maj Gen David 'Ivri, as the head of the Lavi project's steering team. This has been learned by our military correspondent, Shmuel Tal. The other members of the team will be the director general of the Finance Ministry, its accountant-general and the Defense Ministry's economic adviser. They will be subordinate to the defense minister and the finance minister. The director of administration for the Lavi project, Brig Gen 'Amos Lapidot, is not a member of the team. Circles in the defense establishment have told our correspondent that this might herald a reshuffle in the project administration. [Text] [TA170538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Feb 82]

SINAI GROUP LAUNCHES DRIVE--The Movement to Stop the Sinai Withdrawal has announced a special drive to settle hundreds of families and dozens of Yeshiva students from Judaea and Samaria settlements in Yamit. Our correspondent, Shalom Oren, reports that the leaders of this movement intend to bring 600 families and 250 Yeshiva students to the Yamit district during the month of Adar [24 February to 24 March]. The movement plans to set up 30 education institutions, including high schools, yeshivas and elementary schools, to cultivate in all abandoned greenhouses and agricultural plots, to reopen all industrial plants and to launch new projects in industry and the services. According to the plan, the families will arrive at a reception station in Yamit, from where they will be sent to various settlements in the district. The Secretariat of the Judaea and Samaria and Gaza Settlements Council has given all the settlements across the green line a quota of families who may settle in the Yamit district. The campaign will be called "increasing joy" [marbim be'simha]. Our correspondent notes that last week the heads of the movement met to decide on these measures, and today they were published in the newspaper put out by the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza settlements. [Text] [TA171447 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Feb 82]

NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PLANNED--Next year development work will begin on a new international airport north of Elat, and toward extending the 'Atarot Airport's runways. This was reported by Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu as he opened the annual Israeli Aviation and Astronautics Convention. He added that a new control tower and radar will be installed at Ben-Gurion Airport. [Text]
[TA171058 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Feb 82]

BANK OF ISRAEL APPOINTMENT--The new director general of the Bank of Israel is Yosef Sarig. He was previously supervisor of foreign currency, a post he retains.
[TA171748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Feb 82]

CSO: 4400/136

JORDAN'S OPTIONS FOR REGIONAL ALLIANCES DISCUSSED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic no 240, 6-12 Dec 81 p 21

[Article by Fu'ad Na'im: "What Now After Fez? [Jordan] Has Two Choices--Either Syria or the GCC"]

[Text] Jordan is no doubt one of the Arab nations in whose arena the repercussions of the failure of the Fez summit conference will probably be felt. Jordan is directly threatened by the Israeli plan which calls for a Palestinian state to be set up in its territory, and Jordan is also being called upon by the U.S. to join the Camp David process. We should bear in mind that Jordan is a nation which has committed itself to lending its support to the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The U.S. administration concluded a truce with King Husayn during his latest visit to Washington early last November. The U.S. administration did not attempt to put any renewed pressure (on King Husayn) to have Jordan participate in the Camp David agreements. The reason why the U.S. concluded this truce with King Husayn is that it has hopes for the success of Prince Fahd's plan which would have all of the Arab nations agree to adopt a "positive" initiative which would lead to the opening up of a diplomatic corridor along the road which has been closed off as far as the situation in the Middle East is concerned. If Prince Fahd's plan had not surfaced before King Husayn's visit to Washington, the Jordanian monarch would have discussed with President Reagan the necessity of resorting to an international conference in order to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. But it would have been impossible to convince the White House of this because such a proposal implies the direct participation of the Soviet Union in the negotiations which would take place. This is something which now appears to be even more inconceivable after the wide gap which has emerged in the Arab countries' points of view after the Fez conference.

For this reason Jordan at the present time is confronted with the possibility of being exposed to heavy U.S. pressure to facilitate the participation of pro-Jordanian Palestinians from the occupied lands in the autonomy talks. Since King Husayn has definitely and conclusively refused to participate in this scenario, U.S.-Jordanian relations will probably worsen unless the U.S. decides to give priority to its strategic relations with the Arab countries rather than to efforts to bring about the success of the second part of the Camp David agreements. This no doubt would be at the expense of the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and would be at the expense of their national rights and rights to a decent livelihood.

The Israeli government feels that Jordan is the "natural nation" for the Palestinians. There are a number of indications which have led King Husayn to believe that the Jewish state, as it has stated many times, does intend to carry out this hypothesis--either by means of fomenting unrest in Jordan or by attacking Jordan directly. In the absence of actual Arab solidarity, Jordan now feels that it is facing Israel's aggressive ambitions alone. In view of the Arab world's current tragic situation, King Husayn has been issuing warnings for a long time about the threats which the region faces. He also has had some reservations about the Saudi peace plan, preferring instead to have an international conference which would bring nations together rather than separate them.

In any case, observers in Amman consider that Jordan now, in order to gain support for its position vis-a-vis Israel, is impelled to make one of the following two choices (in case of a delay of the holding of an Arab summit conference which would restore unity and solidarity)--either a rapprochement with Syria in order to consolidate the eastern front [facing Israel] or efforts to find a formula of cooperation with the GCC in order to assure strategic depth in its confrontation with the Jewish state. In either of these two cases Jordan would be looking for another partner to support it in its confrontation [with Israel].

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CSO: 4404/218

DAILY SCORNS U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

GF131400 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Americans Are Coming"]

[Text] The Americans are coming, this time without the need of "a visitor's permit" or "an Arab sponsor." They insist on clearing up suspicions about their "legitimate" presence in the Arab East and also the charge they are "sneaking" into areas of power through friendly regimes.

The intentions of the current U.S. administration have become crystal clear. We admit that President Reagan is to be credited for one thing: This man has played in dozens of motion pictures, yet he has not played any roles with the Arabs. Other U.S. presidents never worked in Hollywood, but they never stopped playing different kinds of roles with the Arabs, whether political, diplomatic or military. These roles ranged between extreme "heroism" as in the Eisenhower era and the Suez war of 1956, extreme treachery as in the Johnson era and the June war of 1967, extreme trickery as in Camp David and the Carter-Kissinger era, and extreme recklessness and scorn of the Arabs as in the current President Reagan era.

This man, Reagan, has decided to stop the policy of equivocation and false amicability toward the Arabs. He has made it clear to everyone that the Arab who signs strategic agreements with the United States is a friend under protection; the Arab who refuses is an enemy who must suffer the consequences.

The U.S. administration is currently passing through the phase that precedes the declaration of flagrant war against Arabs who are "uncooperative" with the United States. Reagan is working to explode the Middle East region in order to overthrow unfriendly regimes and lay down a new map eliminating weak or disturbing regimes, shattering dreams of a Palestinian state and the right of self-determination, and imposing "pax Americana" with Israeli boots or U.S. fleets.

...And "happy" dreams for the Arabs, God willing, from "Amman" to "Fes."

CSO: 4404/265

LABOR UNION POSTPONES STRIKE

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 240, 6-12 Dec 81 pp 40-41

[Article: "The Decision to Suspend the Labor Strike Gives the Government Time [to Take Action] and Allows Time to Achieve Unity"]

[Text] The General Labor Confederation Has Overcome a Political Crisis Which Was Threatening Its Coherence and Eliminating Efforts to Deal With the Social Security Situation and the High Cost of Living.

In the meeting which was held by the Executive Council of the General Labor Confederation on 26 November, George Saqar, the confederation's president, said: "The proposals which the government has come up with for rectifying the National Social Security Fund situation and for combatting the high cost of living are sufficient for us to suspend the strike and give [the government] a reasonable amount of time to implement these proposals." He went on to say: "The decision to suspend the strike will enable the confederation to maintain its independent labor union position when dealing with the political trends that are contending with each other within its ranks, will insure that the organization can maintain its unity, and will insure that its just demands are not ignored."

In spite of the partial opposition to the decision to suspend the strike, the decision was nevertheless made and the confederation gave the government until 28 January of next year to implement its proposals. These are proposals which the confederation has been demanding for over a year and a half.

None of the members of the council who attended the meeting made any comments concerning Mr Saqar's remarks. They did not find anything unusual about the connection--which might [normally] appear to be something which is fabricated--between the confederation's decision to suspend the strike and its independent position and desire to preserve its unity. The matter was considered to be something which is understood by all and which does not require clarification, in spite of the implicit opposition which, although having conflicting objectives, might prevail.

With regard to his assessment concerning the decision to suspend the strike, Mr Saqar considers that the decision was one which struck a balance between three important matters ,which are:

1. Giving the government the necessary period of time (2 months) to enable it to draw up the laws and ordinances which will be applied in connection with the proposals submitted, and ratification of the final version of them after they have been expeditiously submitted to the National Assembly.

2. Not implementing the general strike under current circumstances, in view of what the strike might lead to in terms of political repercussions which would make it spill over outside the realm of merely being a labor union strike and turn it into a means of exercising pressure on the government--which is something that many people want. If this happens, the confederation would not be able to control the strike.

3. An end to indifference toward the confederation's demands and continuation of pressure being put on [government] leaders to carry them out, especially since being merely satisfied with promises led to negative results previously.

Labor union circles feel that the government's responsive attitude has helped the confederation to overcome a crisis which nearly became one of the most dangerous crises which both the confederation and government have had to face.

These labor circles are of the opinion that continuing to rectify the Social Security Fund situation and combat the increasingly high cost of living have become an inevitable issue which one cannot afford to retreat from, otherwise the decision to suspend the strike will be transformed into being [merely] a short postponement of the crisis. In such a case, the crisis would continue to be dangerous, even though the surrounding circumstances might change.

The basic elements of this crisis are as follows:

1. The political struggle going on between the National Assembly and government.

2. The dispute between the Lebanese Front and the Lebanese National Movement concerning the Reporting Center of Social Security Fund in eastern Beirut, and the political background of this dispute.

3. The fact that the General Labor Confederation is composed of members who follow conflicting political orientations. So far it has been possible to keep a rein on these conflicting political orientations or to keep them from affecting the confederation's unity in its efforts to maintain the confederation's neutrality in political conflicts and to restrict its concern to labor union issues and issues related to the standard of living which concern the working classes.

The indications of this crisis began to appear during the meeting which was held between the prime minister and the leaders of the confederation. The prime minister stated that the government was utterly unable to carry out the confederation's demand which stipulated requesting emergency powers from the National Assembly. He said that the reason for this was that this demand "would open up the door to closed issues which the government can do without right now."

He added that the president of the National Assembly would consider that to be a good opportunity to attack the government and its policy, and that this would be something which certainly would not end up with it being given emergency powers.

Mr al-Wazzan asked the General Labor Confederation to replace this demand with a demand that the government hasten to carry out the other demands, and he promised to pass on his instructions [relating to this] to the ministers concerned with implementing these demands. The second indication of the crisis began to appear during the General Labor Confederation's meetings with the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese Front, when they began to talk about the Reporting Center of the Social Security Fund in eastern Beirut which the Lebanese Front is demanding.

The Lebanese National Movement informed the leaders of the confederation of its apprehensions that the Lebanese Front would take advantage of the action taken by the General Labor Confederation to establish the Social Security Fund's Reporting Center in eastern Beirut. The Lebanese National Movement asserted that it would not permit this, no matter what means were used and no matter what the results would be, and even if it affected the unity of the General Labor Confederation or led to a large-scale political crisis.

The Lebanese Front, in turn, assured the leaders of the confederation that it was going to insist on considering the Reporting Center in eastern Beirut to be a basic item in dealing with the Social Security Fund situation, and mentioned that it would insist on having this done, no matter what the consequences would be. This led to an argument during the meeting between George Saqar, the head of the confederation, and both Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil.

Mr Saqar said at the meeting: "The confederation's aim is to rectify the Social Security Fund situation. In case it gets its demands in this regard, and if the Lebanese Front insists on the Reporting Center, this will lead people to think that the Lebanese Front wishes to divide up the Social Security Fund." These words angered both Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, who considered them to be slander which they could not accept.

Labor union sources explain that Mr Saqar was forced to take this position in view of his apprehensions that the confederation would land "between the two fires" represented by the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese Front, and that the confederation would then be unable to extricate itself from the political dilemma created by the issue concerning the Reporting Center.

The Most Dangerous Indication

The third indication of the crisis began to appear when the positions taken by the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese Front affected the members of the confederation and when a process of taking sides began to surface in the confederation-- a process which could entail the possibility of splits within the confederation after it has managed to maintain its unity throughout the 6 years of the crisis.

This process of taking sides appears to be continuing, in spite of the decision to suspend the strike. This has made it necessary to deal with this issue with a degree of vision and skill which will permit the confederation to overcome this problem.

In view of these given factors, labor union circles are of the opinion that the decision to suspend the strike was both inevitable and necessary in order to insure

that the above-mentioned crisis elements would be overcome. They also feel that it was necessary in order to insure continuation of action taken to deal with the Social Security Fund situation and to combat the high cost of living. The question which is still being asked is: Are the promises which the confederation has obtained considered sufficient in order to take the decision to suspend the strike?

The head of the confederation assures us that what the government has promised has been something which is very positive and that the government will commence dealing with the Social Security Fund situation during the cabinet meeting which will be held during Wednesday of this week. [He said that the situation will work out] provided the government promulgates sufficient ordinances and laws dealing with the matter by next 26 January at the latest, that is, within a period of 50 days after the urgent draft laws are submitted to the National Assembly.

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JUMAYYIL'S PEACE INITIATIVE ANALYZED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 240, 6-12 Dec 81 pp 11-13

[Article: "Bashir al-Jumayyil's Initiative Represents a Paving of the Way for the Arab Nations and the World Which Has Anticipated the 'Last Opportunity for a Pan-Arab Solution'"]

[Text] The Elimination of the Military Option Would End with a National Charter, and the Specifications Laid Down for the Next President Have Eliminated [Others] Seeking the Presidency.

In the speech made by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, the commander of the Lebanese Forces, during the festivities which were held last Sunday in Antilyas on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Phalangist Party, there were a number of key elements which deserve to be dealt with. But the predominant element in his latest speech was its all-encompassing nature and its profoundness in defining the principles which the Phalangist Party, at the present time, considers sufficient to deal with the Lebanese crisis and which would prescribe a basic structure for the future when it comes to rebuilding post-war Lebanon.

In addition to his stated positions with regard to both the Syrian and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, and his reaffirmation of points which the Phalangist Party considers to be fundamental axioms, there were two other things [in the speech] which drew the attention of political observers in Beirut. They considered them to be a prelude which would open up the door to discussions which, if they become objective in nature and avoid the trap of triviality, could result in bringing about a Lebanese accord which would determine the form of Lebanon's future--which, at least so far, appears to be less than radiant.

The first thing which drew the attention of political observers was mentioned in the context of al-Jumayyil's remarks dealing with the presidential campaign which the commander of the Lebanese Forces has made into a wide-open campaign, particularly after the Political Bureau of the Phalangist Party adopted the ideas expressed by the man who is a member of it and after these ideas became the party's official all-encompassing position. Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil defined what he thought the specifications for the next president should be, asserting that the Phalangist Party has the right to be concerned with the presidential elections and calling upon [the party] to no longer remain neutral [in these elections]. He said that this neutrality on the part of the party has merely served as a cover for the party's pursuits and activities in connection with such elections ever since Lebanon gained

its independence. In this regard al-Jumayyil's remarks were interpreted as being a decision on the part of the Phalangist Party this time to enter the presidential campaign directly rather than indirectly by means of having the party endorse some candidate or other. One thing which has further confirmed this wish [on the part of the Phalangist Party] was the specifications mentioned by al-Jumayyil to be met by the new president--specifications which, at first glance, can only be met by either al-Jumayyil himself, or by one of the leaders of his party, or by former president Camille Sham'un. He said that the country needs "a strong president and will reject a weak president." He defined his idea of the presidency more closely when he said: "We want a president to whom the Lebanese resistance [movement] could entrust the [protection] of its achievements and gains, and who will not utilize these achievements and gains for bartaring, but rather will utilize them for the confrontation. We want a president who will establish harmonious relations..., a president who will at least once stand before the grave of a martyr..., [a president who] will extricate Lebanon from its situation of coexisting with the crisis and plans for solutions to the crisis and put Lebanon into a situation where it no longer has such a crisis and impose solutions to the crisis." Political circles in Beirut consider that these specifications for the presidency have dashed the hopes of many of those who have been seeking the presidency and whose names have "cropped up" in political associations and who have suggested themselves as alternative candidates. Many of the suggested candidates do not meet the basic conditions set by the Phalangist Party. This, of course, means that the Phalangist Party, which will be one of the chief electors during the upcoming presidential campaign, is opposed to these candidates. It would appear that al-Jumayyil is indirectly telling them to withdraw their names from the presidential campaign because they are going to lose anyway.

In this regard, the Phalangist Party has begun the race to set its publicly stated conditions which are not subject to concessions, leaving the field open for the other groups to take action, either on the basis of or via these conditions, to define their positions and to clearly state their ideas concerning the presidential campaign instead of wasting time searching for alternative candidates who will not have the support of the [Phalangist] Party.

Informed political sources drew a connection between the specifications [set by al-Jumayyil concerning the presidency] and what has been said concerning the intention of the commander of the Lebanese Forces to be a presidential candidate. We should bear in mind the fact that these interpretations of the matter have not been denied by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil himself. At the same time, his father, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, has stated on a previous occasion that he will not be a candidate for the presidency. However, he said that the Phalangist Party has not yet decided whether it will nominate somebody from the party or support somebody [from outside the party].

The part of the speech which dealt with this matter was studied very carefully in the political associations, and the people in those associations consider that they have found a number of meanings and dimensions in various individual expressions which were uttered by Bashir al-Jumayyil.

The Initiative

The second thing in al-Jumayyil's speech which [political observers] feel should be carefully studied is the fact that he suggested an important political initiative for dealing with the Lebanese crisis. This initiative has also defined the concept

which the Phalangist Party at this stage has concerning a solution to the Lebanese problem. The most important thing about the initiative is that it casts military matters aside and calls for "political negotiations," stressing the role which the Arab countries, through the Follow-Up Committee, can play in being able to participate in the work done toward bringing about this solution.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil's initiative is based on fundamental principles which have been defined in terms of four points. Their most important features are the regaining by Lebanon of its sovereignty over all of its territory, return of the Syrian forces once and for all to their own country, maintenance of discipline by the PLO over all of its units, and a reaffirmation of the agreement by the Lebanese that any dispute among them should not be urged to be decided by appealing to the force of arms.

The three points of the initiative's practical framework are as follows:

"1. Striving to maintain the Lebanese identity of South Lebanon by means of having the government take the initiative to provide all of the social, educational, and developmental services which have either faltered or been cut off, in order to pave the way for the government to regain its total sovereignty, in all forms, over south Lebanon."

"2. The transformation of the Arab Follow-Up Committee, after it has included all of the parties that want to belong to it, into a working committee on the ambassadorial level which would, before 15 January 1982, implement the following steps in Beirut-- a definite cease-fire, withdrawal of both the Syrian forces and the forces in the Palestinian Liberation Army, establishment of control over the Palestinian presence, and formation of a security force, temporarily including among its commanders and in its composition [unofficial] active Lebanese forces, which would, in cooperation with the official security forces, take over the responsibilities of security in this limited geographical area."

"Right after it finishes dealing with the situation in Beirut, the committee could begin to slowly make progress in dealing with the situation in the other areas of Lebanon, provided that all of its work is done by 15 May 1982 at the latest."

"3. The taking by the Lebanese president of an initiative to form a national delegation, headed by the Lebanese prime minister, which, in cooperation with the Arab Follow-Up Committee, would be entrusted with the job of getting in touch with the people that must be contacted--especially in the Syrian government and in the PLO-- in order to conduct negotiations with them regarding the establishment of firm and correct relations which would guarantee that the Lebanese government totally regain its sovereignty and authority."

Phalangist sources elaborated on the question of providing deadlines for this initiative. They said that 15 January [1982] was set as the deadline for implementing the security steps in Beirut because this was the date of renewal [of the mission] of the Arab Deterrent Force whose mission ends during the middle of next month. The date of 15 May [1982] was chosen as the deadline for the working committee's work because it would provide an opportunity to discuss the presidential elections after the withdrawal of the Syrian forces, and this would insure that no coercion would be exercised in the elections. This is in view of the fact that in his speech al-Jumayyil asserted, as former president Camille Sham'un has done, that "the withdrawal of the Syrians is a basic condition for holding free and impartial elections."

Paving the Way

The fact is that al-Jumayyil's initiative was not a solo performance. It was the result of contacts which al-Jumayyil made during the last few months with a number of both Arab and international groups in authority, to whom he proposed his ideas and whose opinions concerning these ideas he sounded out before putting these opinions in political circulation.

Phalangist sources have mentioned that al-Jumayyil brought up the general outlines of his initiative with Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli, who visited Lebanon last May. At that time he was President Hafiz al-Asad's envoy and conducted meetings with al-Jumayyil which, at that time, were kept secret. Then the commander of the Lebanese Forces submitted these same ideas to the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Kuwaiti foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, when he met both of them within the framework of the Follow-Up Committee at Ba'bda Palace last June. He also submitted his ideas to some of the leaders in the U.S. administration during his official visit to Washington last September and during the many meetings which he held later on with the U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East, Mr Philip Habib, during his last few trips. These ideas have also been submitted to the Libyans during meetings which al-Jumayyil has held with Mr Salih al-Druqi, the secretary of the People's Committee of the "Brotherhood Bureau" in Beirut, and his assistant, Mr 'Abd al-Qadir Ghugah.

These meetings remained secret at first, then they were publicized after the Libyan leader, Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, brought forth his initiative for solving the Lebanese crisis during his famous speech which was made on the anniversary of the 1 September revolution. Al-Jumayyil's ideas were also a subject of discussion during the meeting which was held a few weeks ago between the leaders of the Lebanese Front and the Algerian president's envoy, Mr al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi.

This is why the Phalangist sources are saying that this initiative has been prepared, studied, and discussed. The most important thing about it is that it is the working paper of the Phalangist Party and contains an integrated view of the stages of the Lebanese problem which heretofore has not existed.

These same sources add that the initiative which has been brought forth by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil is tantamount to being the last opportunity which the Arab nations will have to solve the crisis in Lebanon. They say that a failure of al-Jumayyil's initiative would not be Bashir al-Jumayyil's failure as much as it would be the failure of an Arab initiative in Lebanon, and this would close the door to any similar such action which could be undertaken on any of various levels.

These sources single out what they describe as the most important thing in the initiative. They say that al-Jumayyil, via his plan, has stated that he wants to eliminate the military option among the Lebanese and is calling upon the Lebanese Moslems to conclude a covenant of honor not to resort to the use of arms in order to solve their conflicts. They say that the important thing about this appeal is that it is coming from a military man whose power is based on military strength and who is capable of bringing about a coexistence between armed parties. But, they say, he has chosen to eliminate this type of coexistence between armed parties and transform it into [actual] peaceful coexistence, and elimination of the military

option means a beginning of the political option and it means an appeal to all of the Lebanese to come to the negotiation table. They say that when this happens, it could lead to a new national covenant.

The Phalangist sources summarize al-Jumayyil's initiative by saying that it basically calls for a covenant of honor to prohibit fighting and then calls for a national covenant which would enable the Lebanese to live in peace.

In the midst of these Phalangist political interpretations of Bashir al-Jumayyil's initiative, there remains the most important thing with regard to this initiative--which is the reactions to it. The earliest reactions to it were perhaps not altogether negative. In fact, these reactions indicated support and the possibility of a change in views and thinking which could result in the taking of an objective position with regard to the initiative. This is the thing that al-Jumayyil himself regards as being of utmost importance. He hastened to call upon those parties concerned to carefully study the initiative and to judge it objectively rather than reacting emotionally and rejecting it merely because it was brought forth by Bashir al-Jumayyil.

For this reason the basic parties involved in the country have hesitated to express a final opinion concerning the matter. Their leaders have stated that they are making a study of the ideas proposed in order to form a final opinion concerning them.

The days of the near future, via the positions announced [by the basic parties concerned], will be sure to provide an answer concerning the degree of effect which the initiative has had and the degree to which it has been rejected or favorably responded to.

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CSO: 4404/218

OMAN

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION--Omani crude oil production in January 1982 totaled 10,772,420 barrels. This was reported by the Omani Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals today. [GF080612 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1316 GMT 7 Feb 82]

AIR AGREEMENT WITH CYPRUS--Oman and Cyprus signed an agreement today on air transport services. The agreement was signed by Omani Minister of Communications Salim Nasir al Bu Sa'di and the Cypriot minister of communications and works who is visiting Muscat. [GF061756 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Feb 82]

CSO: 4404/265

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO GDR--Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has appointed Ahmad Salih Hajib ambassador to the GDR and Muhammad Miftah Abd al-Rab adviser at the Foreign Ministry. [EA230600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 82]

CSO: 4404/266

'AL-JAZIRAH' CALLS FOR CLEAR PALESTINIAN POSTURE

PM310947 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 28 Dec 81 p 3

[Editorial: "On the Meetings of the Palestinian Central Council"]

[Excerpts] The current meetings of the Palestinian Central Council which began in Damascus yesterday under the chairmanship of Palestinian National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and in the presence of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat are of extreme importance because they are taking place at a critical stage in Arab solidarity, cooperation and joint action for the number one fateful cause of the Arab nation.

We believe that the Palestinian Central Council meetings which began in Damascus yesterday deserve consideration and attention because they are being held at a critical stage in the history of the Arab nation, as the Jordanian monarch said 2 days ago. It is a stage of Israeli challenges which the Arabs will confront strongly, because such challenges will materialize into a vicious Israeli onslaught on the Arab countries on the confrontation lines with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Israel initiated this onslaught with the decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights, which it has been occupying since 1967. Israel will follow this decision with others no less serious and challenging. This was the conclusion reached by Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq al-Natshah, who said in his statement to AL-JAZIRAH yesterday that Israel's threats to Southern Lebanon are intended to plan for the occupation of Jordan.

For this reason the Palestinian Central Council meetings are of great importance to the Arab countries in their critical conditions, because these meetings should answer the Arabs' questions specifically and clearly, namely as to the Palestinian revolution's attitude, as spokesman of the Palestinian people and expressing their will, vis-a-vis the recent developments in the Arab arena. What does the Palestinian revolution want exactly from the Arab countries, and what is its attitude to international proposals such as the European initiative and to the only Arab initiative, namely the Saudi peace plan? Where does the Palestinian revolution stand with regard to acceptance of the Saudi initiative by the Arab majority on the national level as a vehicle for dealing with the Palestinian problem and the question of peace in the region?

The Arab countries cannot impose on the Palestinian revolution a particular solution or proposal--not even the Saudi plan, despite its flexibility and susceptibility to amendment and alteration. But all the Arab countries are always prepared to uphold the Palestinian will and whatever that will may express. Foremost among these countries is the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, which has on every occasion confirmed its commitment to Arab unanimity and to what the Palestinians want as the owners of a right and a cause.

Therefore, we believe that the time has come for the Palestinian revolution to clearly declare its stand toward all the new political, diplomatic and military developments in the Arab arena, because without that the efforts being made to restore Arab solidarity, cooperation and joint action will encounter the obstacles of political differences, ideological conflicts and disparity of views and attitudes, which would mean greater division and fragmentation of the Arab countries and further exacerbation of its critical situation. It would also offer the Israeli enemy more suitable opportunities to implement its aggressive and expansionist plan.

CSO: 4404/266

COLLAPSE OF KHOMEYNI REGIME SAID TO BE IMMINENT

GF180537 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 12 Feb 82 p 2

[Editorial: "The Imminent Collapse of the Ignorant Khomeyni Regime"]

[Excerpts] In Islamic history and throughout the ages, there has been no bloodier or more damaging black era in an Islamic country than the one currently affecting the fraternal Muslim Iranian people. These people live amid circumstances characterized by disunity.

The Iranian regime claims it held a revolution to reform, whereas the actual situation in Iran is destruction and continuous annihilation.

The regime in Iran claims to have held a revolution that applies Islam. Actually, what the regime in Iran is currently applying is far from Islam and close to blind ignorance. There is no rule, redeeming element or mercy. The regime in Iran claims its revolution is designed to support the oppressed, whereas it has converted everyone in Iran into oppressed through this policy followed by crazy members of the regime who adopted every evil act and introduced them into Iran so that no family or individual has escaped the regime's evil.

The Iranian regime became "intoxicated" with the feeling of victory, and it is still "intoxicated" with the desire for revenge and killing. This caused the resistance which Mas'ud Rajavi, one of the most outstanding opposition figures to the regime, told AL-MADINAH about.

Mas'ud Rajavi is an Iranian citizen. He is in contact with the situation in Iran. His front clashes with Khomeyni's followers all over Iran, and what he says is significant because it is based on direct information that can be supported by facts.

Undoubtedly, the mask has fallen off the real face of the Khomeyni regime. This paper has talked about this several times: the grudges, hatred, chaos, extremism, bloodlust and revenge that overwhelmed the people in authority in this regime. They have on the tip of their tongues what they do not have in their hearts. They are supposed to be religious people, but they are actually murderers who enjoy burning and destruction.

We can enumerate indefinitely the aspects of the regime's failure. Throughout the behavior of this regime, there is nothing that inspires sanity in internal administration or international relations. Therefore, when Mas'ud Rajavi says the regime is now in its final days, there is evidence that supports his view. However, what prevents the total collapse of this regime is the backing it receives from the invisible powers, "free masons, Judaism and communism," which care for the existence of a regime that saps the strength of the fraternal Muslim people and leaves them suffering severe pain.

CSO: 4404/266

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPER COMMENTS ON REAGAN 'WELT AM SONNTAG' INTERVIEW

PM121613 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 9 Feb 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Mr Reagan's Statements"]

[Text] When Mr Reagan says that Israel is the U.S. ally in the Middle East and that Israel is a powerful state governed by a democratic will and national unity, contrary to the situation in the kingdom and the Gulf Emirates, which are under absolute rule, and when he goes to great lengths to sing the praises of his Zionist ally who, with all the arrogance of the invader and aggressor, is installed on part of Arab soil, as if the Arab area--with all it represents in cultural tradition and geographic location and with all the natural resources it contains, which are of special importance for the civilization of the industrial West--does not exist on the world's geographical and political map, or as if the presence of the Israeli entity in the midst of the Arab homeland nullifies every Arab existence on this map--when Mr Reagan says such things and extols his "democratic" ally in the area and ignores the historical facts that are present and alive in the human conscience as to the conditions that have led to the implanting of this democratic ally in the heart of the Arab homeland, he is in fact telling us the Arabs that this entity has been established in order to counter Arab barbarism and absolute autocratic rules not only in the Arab Gulf but also throughout the Arab homeland, which is the target of the aggressiveness and arrogance of this ally.

Mr Reagan also wanted to draw a historical comparison between the conditions that led to the creation of his state and its cultural formation, which was based on the remains of another people who were subjected to the same savagery and physical annihilation as that to which our Palestinian Arab peoples are subjected. That is, when the founding fathers pounced on the unknown continent and committed mass genocide against the original inhabitants of the virgin continent so they could establish on their remains the cowboy civilization and a new lifestyle based on the logic of the jungle and a return to the early barbarism in history before the advent of human civilization.

Whether Mr Reagan's statements to the German magazine WELT AM SONNTAG are true or not or whether the magazine drew its own conclusions from the U.S. president's statements, which the White House tried to deny in an official statement, the fact remains that nothing will change the nature of the intimate relations that link Mr Reagan's administration and the Israeli entity. Nor will it change

the historical facts that led to the establishment of this entity and the sustained U.S. role in backing and consecrating this entity and in regarding the existence of this Zionist entity as an American fact existing in the heart of the great power which Mr Reagan represents, even before it became a state imposed by the force of arms on part of the globe thousands of miles away from the mother state that produced this "hybrid" child at the cost of dispersing a whole people and occupying their country and property.

Whatever the objectives such statements may serve, there is no doubt that President Reagan knows more than anybody else the political situation that was the topic of his talk to the West German magazine. We do not think that he can, or rather allow himself to fall into such contradiction with regard to the kingdom without putting himself in an embarrassing situation or rather in the pitfall of (contradictory statements) which he makes from time to time and yet see no harm or embarrassment in such contradiction. [Sentence as published]

The kingdom which he said is under absolute rule is the same kingdom about which he has said on various occasions that it is the Arab state that enjoys stability which enables it to play a vanguard role in the problems of the area. It is the state whose stand toward the Lebanese crisis and its effective role in halting the internicine killing between the children of the same country he has praised. The kingdom is also the country that has played a conscientious and responsible role in energy issues in its capacity as the biggest producer and exporter of energy and is still playing this role. So what can we say about autocratic rule in the kingdom, as Mr Reagan describes it?

CSO: 4404/266

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PRESS RAPS REAGAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARABS, ISRAEL

GF091335 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 9 Feb (WAM)--In their editorials today, three UAE newspapers strongly attack the United States' Middle East policy, its favoritism toward Israel and its opposition to Arab rights and the will of the international community.

Under the headline "U.S. Protection Is a Safeguard for Zionist Aggression," the newspaper AL-WAHDAH writes: "Despite all denials, the Reagan administration has emphasized the depth of its alliance and the strength of its ties with the Zionist entity. Despite all its apparent indignation, the Zionist entity is demonstrating daily that it does not act in accordance with its own plans and views. It is demonstrating that its actions and behavior are in accordance with advice from Washington, which creates a favorable climate, mollifies its enemies, gives it the signal to move and then stands ready to extend material and moral support at all times. Both Zionism and the U.S. Government have furnished a great deal of evidence proving the special character and depth of this relationship.

AL-WAHDAH expresses regret because "despite all this we are still turning a blind eye in many cases and are still operating under the illusion that we can persuade the U.S. Government that its stand is mistaken and that it needs to be objective in its approach to the conflict that is taking place on Arab territory."

In this regard, AL-WAHDAH says that the close relationship between Zionism and the U.S. Government can be clearly seen in Southern Lebanon and in the whole of Lebanon, "for Menahem Begin sends his emissaries to Washington asking it to create a favorable climate for him and to give him the green light in order to justify his aggression. At the same time, his press claims that the aggression has been postponed because of the political harm that might result."

The Dubayy newspaper AL-BAYAN says that the escalation in the hostility of U.S. policy toward our nation and to the Arab cause is "a result of the present Arab situation and the Arabs' inability so far to exercise their will and use their capabilities and their inability to deal with the United States and other large and small countries on the basis of mutual interests."

AL-BAYAN attributes the U.S. president's persistent favoritism toward Israel, his bragging about this favoritism and his deliberately offensive stance toward the Arabs to the fact that "he realizes that his considerations--now that he is in a position of power and responsibility--are different from the statements he made when he was campaigning for the presidency. Therefore, what he used to say to outbid his rival, former President Carter, is now subject to other considerations of office. Thus, all the slogans he raised have fallen and all his promises to the American people to regain U.S. prestige have been broken. He is not the savior of the United States. He has failed to maintain his popularity. He has increased his support for Israeli aggression and has gone as far as being deliberately offensive to the Arabs."

In conclusion, AL-BAYAN calls for putting an end to U.S. disregard for Arab dignity and destiny and urges serious and speedy efforts to achieve effective Arab solidarity, "because, the continuation of Arab differences and divisions will preoccupy the Arabs and encourage the Arab nation's enemies to persist in their aggression against it and in slandering it."

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PAPER SCORES U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

GF091553 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 9 Feb 82 p 1

[Editorial: "...and Fate Will Laugh"]

[Text] The United States is not interested in the interests of the Arab Gulf countries. It is not concerned about Arab interests. What the United States is interested in more than anything else is the continued flow of Arab oil to the markets and factories of the "free world." As for the Arab world, its interests are totally disregarded.

After threatening us at the United Nations and sending its modern aircraft--through the Israeli Air Force--to violate the skies of the Gulf, the United States is now threatening us in our very homes. Weinberger openly declares--and without the slightest respect for the area countries and their peoples--that \$4 billion will be allocated to the rapid deployment force to enable it to protect the oilfields in the Gulf for the sake of the "free world," which includes the United States, Western Europe, Japan and Israel.

Who is this enemy in the Arabian Gulf that the United States is afraid of? It is certainly not the Soviet Union, despite repeated U.S. assertions in this regard. The real "enemy" of the United States is the Arab people in this region. It is for this reason that the United States is strengthening the rapid deployment force, consolidating its strategic alliance with Israel and separating "Gulf security" from a solution to the Palestinian question. The United States is playing more than one game to keep the Arabs constantly divided so it can continue to extort the peoples and countries of the region.

The United States recently took Israel's side and opposed the will of the international community at the Security Council. It was a clear stand of hostility toward the Arab Gulf countries. The United States recently trespassed against Arab sovereignty and supplied sophisticated arms to Israel so it could bomb the Iraqi nuclear reactor and kill large numbers of Lebanese and Palestinians. That too was blatant aggression against the Arab people in the Arabian Gulf. Furthermore, the United States opposed any international condemnation of Israel's fascist crimes.

This is the logic of U.S. terrorism. It is being confirmed in statements issued by senior U.S. officials, whether in Washington or outside the United States.

This terrorism is directed against the Arab people in the Arab Gulf region and throughout the Arab world.

The United States has opted for the "enmity" of the Arab people and has asserted that it is mobilizing a massive military force to ensure that Arab Gulf oil will remain within the reach of the United States, Israel, Western Europe and Japan. Therefore, Washington must await the "harvest" of its enmity towards the Arabs.

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PAPER CHARGES U.S. WITH TERRORISM

GF080510 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Feb 82 pp 1, 7

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The United States, which has consistently called those fighting for their freedom and the retrieval of their homelands "terrorists," is now itself practicing "international terrorism" openly in the circles of the United Nations.

What is terrorism? Is it not the adoption of a separate stand, the menacing and threatening of others with punishment, the refusal to yield to the majority opinion in the international community, and indeed forcing the international community to bow to what Washington sees and wants? Is it not protecting the aggressor and supplying him with all means of power so as to violate international law? Is not the U.S. attitude toward Israel today--this isolated attitude of taking exclusive pride in its brute force and obdurate tyranny--similar to the stand of Hitlerite Germany toward the few states that joined the Axis powers on the eve of World War II?

We used to say it was in Israel's nature to ridicule UN decisions and scorn the wishes of the international community for peace, because it is a racist and fascist entity. But now the United States has surpassed its partner Israel in disregarding and scorning the United Nations--indeed and in blackmailing it. It had unmasked its face and bared its teeth, sparing no effort or time in protecting Israel from a just word said by the international community about its aggression and scorn for peace.

The United States has put the whole world on one scale and Israel on a heavier and more important scale. It has done this by threatening to leave the United Nations should the General Assembly impose sanctions on Israel or decide to suspend its membership.

Certainly he who is ready to put the whole world on one scale and Israel on the other, and who is ready to lose the "United" Nations for the sake of Israel, is ready to fight alongside Israel, or to fight the whole world if it stands against Israel.

Ultimately the whole matter depends on the attitude of the Arabs. Either we become people who enjoy defeat and lick their wounds and enjoy this or we gather our forces and accept joint U.S.-Zionist challenge, be loyal to our friends and show firm hostility to our enemies like men.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL OIL GLUT--Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAM)--The newspaper AL-WAHDAH today calls for a quick move to confront the challenges resulting from the international oil market glut. The paper says that oil revenues must be invested for the welfare of the people and in the interest of continuous cooperation between consumers and producers. AL-WAHDAH says that the oil-producing and exporting countries are at a historical turning point, the aftermath of which will be felt by future generations. It continues: "The disorder currently prevailing in the oil market casts economic doubts on the proposed plans and economic projects of oil-producing countries and Third World countries, now that the relationship between the oil producers and other developing countries has become certain." The paper says: "OPEC's current battle is a fight to control the oil market so it can undertake development projects and serve coming generations. It is also a fight to thwart the international plot aimed at undermining the national economies of OPEC countries in general and Arab countries in particular." In conclusion, the newspaper asks: "Will OPEC carry out its required task of offsetting its previous weakness and rectify its march?" [Excerpts] [GF130925 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Feb 82]

KUWAITI-BULGARIAN TRANSPORT PROTOCOL--A joint Kuwaiti-Bulgarian protocol was signed in Kuwait today by Kuwaiti Communications Minister 'Isa al-Masidi and Bulgarian Communications Minister Pando Vanchev. This will provide for bilateral cooperation in the telecommunications and postal fields. [Text] [GF111710 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Feb 82]

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

PDRY OFFICIAL LEAVES SAN'A'--Brother 'Abdallah Hamad Ghanim, candidate member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Council in the southern part of the homeland, left San'a' for Aden this morning at the end of a visit to San'a' during which he conveyed an oral message to Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, from his Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland. In a predeparture statement to Saba' News Agency correspondent, Ghanim said he will convey an oral reply from the brother leader president to his Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on the continuation of coordination and consultations between the two political leaderships in the interest of the Yemeni people. He added that the message also deals with the discussion of all matters pertaining to the implementation of the agreements that were signed between the two parts of the homeland. Brother Ghanim was seen off at the airport by Lt Col Husayn al-Daf'i, President Salih's advisor for unity affairs; and the brother director of the Unity Affairs Bureau. [Text] [JN151836 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 82]

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